



Introduction to Christian Apologetics June 15th

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope,
always be ready to explain it.

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)



June 15th

- What is truth?
 - Absolute truth
- How do I know that Christianity is true?
 - How do I know?
 - How do I show?
- What is the nature and relationship of faith and reason?
 - Question: Is faith without an evidential basis rational and justified?
- Proposition: Christianity is the only self-consistent worldview
 - Let's explore that proposition
 - Brief survey of other worldviews



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- What is Truth?
 - John 18:36 “What is truth?” Pilate asked.
 - John 8:31-32 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- From Merriam-Webster: *the property (as of a statement) of being in accord with fact or reality*
 - Scientism: Only truth found thru science is valid
- Consider: Is the statement: There is no such thing as truth, true?
 - If not, we’re good
 - If so, we have a self-refuting argument
- Question: Is truth something that is discovered, or is it something that is there regardless of our knowing it?
 - Did gravity pop into being when Sir Isaac Newton got conked in the head by an apple?



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- What is absolute truth
 - "Absolute truth" is defined as inflexible reality: fixed, invariable, unalterable facts.
 - Some define this as First Principles, i.e. basic, foundational, and self-evident propositions.
 - $2 + 2 = 4$
- Most fields of study have First Principles.
- What are the absolute, i.e. "foundational" truths of the Christian Faith?
 - Remember: Know what you know and Why



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• **Foundational truths of the Christian faith**

- Salvation comes by God's Grace through faith ([belief in God promises](#)) in Jesus Christ. Your own good works cannot earn you salvation.
- There is [only one way to God](#) and that is through Jesus Christ. Other religions are not alternate paths to God.
- Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the only visible image of God, and is the Creator of everything seen and unseen.
- Jesus lived a sinless life and was the innocent Lamb sacrifice of God whose blood was shed to take away sin.
- Jesus was both fully God and fully human.
- All Humankind is sinful and therefore all must come to Jesus Christ to be cleansed of their sin or they will be eternally separated from a Holy God.
- Those that deny the Son of God also deny the Father because They are One.
- Jesus died and death could not hold Him. God rose the Body of Jesus from the dead and Jesus ascended to the throne of God in heaven.
- All in Christ have the Holy Spirit as a witness and a helper, all members of the Body of Christ are new spiritual creations.
- Those that trust in Jesus Christ for their eternal salvation can never be lost.
- Satan, also known as the Devil, is real and is a powerful spiritual adversary. (A Christian's defense from Satan is putting on the whole armor of God – Eph 6:7)
- Jesus authenticated the Old Testament scriptures as coming from God. The New Testament scriptures are authenticated by the eye witnesses of Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit within the Body of Christ. The Christian Bible is the inerrant word of God. Therefore, all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Ti 3:16).
- There is a Lake of Fire reserved for those who oppose or reject Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is coming again in Glory and every eye will see Him when He comes. He will judge the living and the dead and God will then create a new heaven and a new earth where there is no more sin, sickness, death or sorrow.



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- But aren't these truths relative to what a Christian believes?
 - Aren't all truths "relative"?
 - In today's society, relativism is considered a prerequisite to so-called "openness"
 - Today's new tolerance: All values, all beliefs, all lifestyles, all truth claims are equal'. Denying this makes a person 'intolerant', and thus worthy of contempt.
- Today, truth seems to more a matter of taste. Driven mainly by the need/desire to be accepted and not labelled with one of the current epitaphs. "Intolerant, Bigot, Homophobe"
- However, to a Christian, especially to a Bible professing Christian: Philosophical and Religious ideas are not a matter of taste, but matters of truth



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- Worldviews (or why this discussion on truth matters)
 - **Worldview defined:** (from the German *Weltanschauung*) provides a framework for generating, sustaining, and applying knowledge – it is one's general view of the universe and our place in it which affects one's conduct. It is one's system of beliefs; their ideology; how one sees the world. Everyone has a worldview, whether or not they can articulate it.
- Why does man pursue a worldview?
 - Tries to address several topics:
 - One's view of God
 - One's view of reality
 - One's view of truth
 - One's view of knowledge
 - One's view of humanity
 - One's view of ethics
 - One's view of evil.



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- 7 Major worldviews:
 - Theism
 - Humanism
 - Pantheism
 - Panentheism
 - Deism
 - Polytheism
 - Finite Godism



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- Theism

- GOD – Infinite and immanent Being beyond the finite universe
- UNIVERSE – Finite, created by God
- HUMANITY (origin) – Eternal, created and sustained by God
- HUMANITY (destiny) – Where you spend eternity: with, or separated from, God; it is up to you
- EVIL (origin) – Consequence of allowing man to have free will
- EVIL (destiny) – God triumphs in the end
- ETHICS (origin) – Grounded in the nature of God
- Ethics (nature) – Absolute, moral and prescriptive



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- Humanism (Atheism, Agnosticism, etc)
 - GOD – Does not exist, only the universe exists
 - UNIVERSE – It is eternal, or it randomly came to be
 - HUMANITY (origin) – Evolved from lower life forms and are not eternal
 - HUMANITY (destiny) – when we die that is the end of the story
 - EVIL (origin) – It is real, caused by human ignorance
 - EVIL (destiny) – It can be defeated by man
 - ETHICS (origin) – Created by humanity
 - ETHICS (nature) – Relative, situational



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- Pantheism

- GOD – Infinite, impersonal, he is the universe
- UNIVERSE – It is an illusion, a manifestation of God, who alone is real
- HUMANITY (origin) – Human true self is God
- HUMANITY (destiny) – we live our life in cycles until some ultimate goal
- EVIL (origin) – An illusion, caused by errors of the mind
- EVIL (destiny) – Will be reabsorbed by God
- ETHICS (origin) – Grounded in lower manifestations of God
- ETHICS (nature) – Relative, beyond the illusion of good and evil



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- Panentheism
 - GOD – finite, changing, director of world affairs
 - UNIVERSE – Multiple, eternal but many different variations
 - HUMANITY (origin) – created but on a par with God
 - HUMANITY (destiny) – Working it out with God as we go along
 - EVIL (origin) – An illusion, caused by errors of the mind
 - EVIL (destiny) – will always be there, since there is no ending
 - ETHICS (origin) – Grounded in lower manifestations of God
 - ETHICS (nature) – No absolutes



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- Deism

- GOD – Infinite and **unimmanent** Being beyond the finite universe, one being, not a Trinity
- UNIVERSE – Finite, created by God
- HUMANITY (origin) – Eternal, created and sustained by God
- HUMANITY (destiny) – Where you spend eternity: with, or separated from, God; it is up to you
- EVIL (origin) – Consequence of allowing man to have free will
- EVIL (destiny) – God triumphs in the end
- ETHICS (origin) – Grounded in the nature of God
- Ethics (nature) – Absolute, moral and prescriptive



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- Polytheism

- GOD – multiple, finite, usually a pantheon of gods
- UNIVERSE – Created but each aspect of the universe has a different god
- HUMANITY (origin) – created to serve the gods
- HUMANITY (destiny) – Playgrounds of the gods
- EVIL (origin) – On of the gods
- EVIL (destiny) – may or may not be destroyed by one of the other gods
- ETHICS (origin) – created by the gods
- ETHICS (nature) – at the whims of the gods



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- Finite Godism

- GOD – finite, limited in some aspects, single entity
- UNIVERSE – No creation, shaped what was available
- HUMANITY (origin) – created but through an evolutionary process
- HUMANITY (destiny) – A soul lives on
- EVIL (origin) – Both physical (can be dealt with) and moral (can't be dealt with)
- EVIL (destiny) – on a par with God, limits him
- ETHICS (origin) – Humans decide what is right or wrong
- ETHICS (nature) – Since God is finite, no absolutes



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- Some examples
 - Theism
 - Christianity, Judaism and Islam
 - Humanism
 - More of a lack of religion, Atheists and Agnostics
 - Pantheism
 - Most Hindus, many Buddhists, New Age religions
 - Cults: Christian Science, Unity and Scientology
 - Panentheism
 - Hindu Sects
 - Native American Religions



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- Deism
 - Founding Fathers
- Polytheism
 - Greek, Roman, Norse
 - Mormonism
- Finite Godism
 - More of a belief set as opposed to a religion
 - Jehovah's Witness – Christ is created by God, who then created the rest of Creation



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Videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWY-6xBA0Pk>
 - Ravi Zacharias on Absolute Truth
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Txez9sJUtaE>
 - Worldview from the “Truth Project”



- **Worlds Apart: A Handbook on Worldviews**

- Authors: Norman L. Geisler and William D. Watkins
- Publisher: Baker, Publication Date: 1989