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Apologetics
Bethel Community University
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Session 1

Apologetics - ...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence... 1 Peter 3:15

- I. Our English word "apologetics" derives from the Greek word (noun) _____ (or verb *apologeomai*).
 - A. It is found in many New Testament passages:
 1. 1 Corinthians 9:3
 2. 2 Corinthians 7:11
 3. Acts 19:33; 22:1; 24:10; 25:8, 16; 26:1, 2, 24;
 4. 2 Timothy 4:16
 5. Philipians 1:7, 16
 - B. *Apologia* was a Greek legal term, meaning among other things: an _____, a defense, a _____ defense, a speech in defense, a speech of defense, a reply.
 - C. In Acts 24:10; 25:8, 16; 26:1, 2, and 24, the word is used in both a _____ sense, and in the Christian sense--as an "answer" as to why Paul believed in Jesus.
 - D. An apologetic is a well-reasoned or thought out defense, or an answer or reply and presentation of a _____ one holds or wants to defend or prove.
 - E. In this case the cause is Christ—Christianity
 - F. As used in the Bible, an apologetic does not mean an _____ or "apologizing" for what you believe. That is, it is not saying "excuse me" or "I'm sorry."
 - G. Apologetics is a subdivision of Christian theology.
 - H. Apologetics is the presenting of _____ and logical arguments or reasons why a person ought to believe in Christ. This includes the whole gamut or types of apologetics and related concerns.
 - I. Simply put, Christian Apologetics is the _____ defense of Christianity.

- ✦ **Ontology** - Theory of being, metaphysics: inquiry into the _____ nature of reality.
- ✦ **Epistemology** - Theory of _____, inquiry into the nature and source of knowledge.
- ✦ **Axiology** - Theory of value, _____ and ethics: inquiry into beauty and duty, apologetics, homiletics...

Truth

- _____
- _____
- Both of these statements violate the _____ of non-contradiction.
- You can not say "there is no absolute truth"
- You can say "there is absolute truth."
- The _____ question is "if there is absolute truth, what is it?"
- **Contradiction:**
 - Two statements which are mutually _____ so that if one is true, the other is necessarily false.
 - Cannot be (A) and (non-A) at the same time and in the same sense. ($A \neq \sim A$)
 - A statement and its _____ cannot be true simultaneously.
- **Paradox:** something which appears _____ but is essentially true. A paradox looks like a contradiction, but it is not a contradiction. A paradox is not a contradiction although unfortunately the words are sometimes used synonymously.
Zeno's Paradoxes
- **Antinomy:** the existence of two seemingly _____ statements, each of which, taken on its own, is reasonable.

Faith & Reason

Matthew 7:13-29

Axioms

- Axioms – widely established or accepted principles – self evident truth... (given)
- Truths that influence or format your worldview.
- Different sets of glasses through which we see the world.
- Ideas (truths) that motivate us.
- axioms – a truth (principle) that ought to be widely accepted.
- What are some axioms that have impacted our thinking...

1. The Bible needs to be approached as _____ ... 2 Peter 1:21 – God’s Word frozen in time by God, the Holy Spirit melts it into our hearts...

A. Accuracy of Texts

B. Canonicity

1) Old Testament

2) New Testament

- Author’s Proximity to _____
- Author’s Proximity to _____
- Theological _____
- Early Church _____

2. There is nothing we know about God that He did not have to tell us... 1 Corinthians 2:14

- a. God is the source of all _____.
- b. God reveals truth to _____ through Creation, Christ and Scripture.
- c. Truth claims are tested by _____ to, and coherence with Scripture.
- d. Nature of knowledge is _____.
- e. Sin has rendered the mind incapable of rightly interpreting God’s revelation. God the Holy Spirit must remove the _____ of sin so a mind can assign right significance to God’s revelation.

f. The Doctrine of Revelation

- The Concept of Revelation
- Scriptural Texts
- Revelation in General
- The _____ of Revelation
- Forms of Revelation
 - _____ Revelation
 - _____ Revelation