



Apologetic Evangelism
February 21st -March 21st 2026

Instructor

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Course Title

Apologetic Evangelism -Block 1

Time

Saturdays 9:00-11:00 am

Required Book

Block 1 *Delighting in the Trinity, Michael Reeves*
Block 2 TBA
Block 3 TBA

Course Description

The course will consist of an examination and evaluation of the overall argument for the truthfulness of Christianity. The emphasis will be to look at the arguments of: the nature of Truth, the existence of God, evil, hell, miracles, reliability of the Bible, Jesus Christ, resurrection, and other topics that comprise the core doctrines of Christianity. This will be Block 1, of three Blocks, in which will cover an Introduction to Apologetics and the apologetic task and then begin with the nature of Truth, and the existence of God and World Views. Block 2 will look at the problem of Evil and Hell and are miracles possible. Block 3 we will look to cover the N.T. reliability, Jesus Christ and His Resurrection. The evangelism emphasis in this course will be looked at by the role of faith, reason, and the Holy Spirit in as it pertains to evangelizing non-Christians.

Course Goal

The course goal will be twofold: (1) To deepen your personal faith in Jesus Christ through the incredible richness of evidential support it has and (2) to equip you with the tools to become a more efficient evangelist as it pertains to providing crucial evidence for the truth of Christianity and responding to objections raised by the non-Christians.

Course Requirements Block 1

1. Read *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves and submit weekly half page summary (no longer than 1pg). Include name, date, chapter title, summary of theme, academic evaluation, and personal application (devotional).

2. There will be a take home exam on material covered through the first Block of the course. Questions will be based on class lectures and notes. Exam will include multiple choice and true-false, short definition, matching and short essay/fill in type questions.
3. Submit a typed research paper of 3-5 pages in length on one of the topics covered in class. Please see attached "Writing a Term Paper" guidelines for minimal paper requirements.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Syllabus/ What/Why Apologetics and Introduction
2	Absolute Truth
3	Existence of God (Paper Due)
4	Existence of God/Worldviews (Exam Finalized)
5	Problem of Evil
6	Problem of Hell
7	Miracles (Paper Due- Exam Finalized)
8	Reliability of the New Testament [possibly 2 classes]
9	Deity of Christ
10	Resurrection of Christ (Paper Due- Exam Finalized)

Introduction to Apologetics

Definition: Apologetics

1. The word “apologetics” comes from the Greek word *apologia* which means “reasoned defense.”
2. The word is used at least nine times in the New Testament (I Cor 9:3; 2 Cor 7:11; I Pet 3:15; Phil 1:7, 16; II Tim 4:16; Acts 25:16; 19:33; 22:1).
3. It is a *judicial* term which describes the way a lawyer defends his client in a court room (II Tim 4:16). It is not a *military* term.
4. Therefore, apologetics is the branch of Christian theology that deals with the verbal defense of the Christian faith.

What the BIBLE says about Apologetics

1Peter 3:15-16 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Philippians 1:7,17 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.... but the latter **out of love**, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

2 Timothy 2:24-25 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Going back to 1 Peter 3.15 lets spend our time here and look at what God would give us from His word

1Peter 3:15-16 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,

with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

1. *sanctify* the Lord God in your hearts

ESV says but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy

the word sanctify is the verb in these verses

I believe this is the first Step to Christian Apologetics God would first have us a temple of worship first!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

IS your heart a temple of worship unto the LORD JESUS CHRIST? Looking back at these verses let's look at the attitude apologetics are employed.

Galatians 5.19-26

Notice fruit bearing is something that comes from abidance

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

2. and always be ready to give a defense... always being prepared to make a defense

The idea of *always be ready* gives the idea of not waiting till you need to make a defense, but preparedness.

3. to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,

This is to those who seek to reason, anyone and everyone who seek not an argument for arguments sake but are either genuinely against the faith and would reason against it honestly or for the sake of the hearers who seek to reason why you ...sanctify the Christ as LORD in you life.

Reason is something I pondered much about in the area of apologetics.

I was Mr. right at least I needed to have a sense that I was right, if not I felt my life was a lie or pride did not allow me to see the wisdom that says, "he who thinks he knows, knows not."

Jeremiah 9.23-24 says Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and

knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

Head knowledge, which we are commanded to have and be readied with, needs to be reasonable and adapt to those situations we argue against. Remember an Argument can be passionate exchange of ideas, but emotions should never control the heart but reason.

4. *with meekness and fear*

1 Peter 3:16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

The reality of the hearts attitude is not an attitude that seeks to be right but more so to be obedient to my LORD and to His word.

Thus, I do not appear meek to win my argument but because it reflects JESUS!

Therefore, if I reflect Jesus and am persecuted; praise God, he counted me worthy but if I am rejected and persecuted because of my selfish sinful attitude then in reality, I am just mis-representing Jesus and trying to save face.

- You can't show people how great *you are* and how *great Jesus* is at the same time.

1 Peter 3:17 For *it is better*, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Now if we are to look at apologetics at a part of the Christian discipline as Jesus said if you love me obey my Commands.

We ought to understand what types of apologetics there are and some rule for them.

The Bible gives two types Negative and Positive.

Negative:

2 Corinthians 10:5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Titus 1:9-11 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to **exhort and convict those who contradict**. For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, **whose mouths must be stopped**, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

Positive:

Providing evidence

Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Romans 1:19-20 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Luke 24:38-39 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

Besides the Fact that God commands us to do Apologetics here are some other important facts about doing them.

1. Jesus did them.

- a. He showed "Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3).
- b. He dispelled the disciples' doubts by presenting his body as evidence of his resurrection. As we saw in Luke 24.
- c. Jesus provided empirical evidence in order to confirm his message.

Mark 2:8-11 - "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'your sins are forgiven you,' or to say 'arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins' □ He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.' Immediately he arose... and... all were amazed and glorified God..."

Acts 2:22 - "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus of Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know."

- d. He defended the existence of the afterlife (Mt 22:23-33) with reason and Scripture when the Sadducees (Mt 22:15).
- e. We should imitate Christ

1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

2. Because our faith is under attack from the outside

a. By cults

- i. Mormonism: Bruce McConkie said “Mormons have the only pure and perfect Christianity now on earth” (McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, vol.2 1976,p.113) [this is a direct challenge to historic Christianity]

b. By the occult

- i. Witchcraft: Arnold 1909-1974 and Patricia Crowther say that : They [witches] do not understand why other religions should wish to convert everyone to...Surely no one can believe that a god, who made the world and everyone in it, should choose one group more than any other, and condemn the rest to an everlasting hell. (Crowther, The Secrets of Ancient Witchcraft with the Witches Tarot, 1974, p.179)

c. Other world views

i. Atheism and Humanism

1. There is no God-main premise
2. Atheist, G. Richard Bozarth said “And how does a god die? Quite simply because all his religionists have been converted to another religion, and there is no one left to make children believe they need him. Finally, it is irresistible – we must ask how we can kill the god of Christianity. We need only insure that our schools teach only secular knowledge. . . . If we could achieve this, God would indeed be shortly due for a funeral service. Bozarthg, “On Keeping God Alive,” American Atheist (Nov 1977): 8; cited in John Whitehead, Texas Tech Law Review (Winter 1978): 40.
3. Atheist have become anti-Theist such as George Smith who writes, “It is my purpose, however to demonstrate that the belief in god is irrational to the point of absurdity...” (Smith, Atheism: The Case Against God, p.xi)

4. “we are convinced the time has passed for theism”
Humanist Manifesto I (1933)
 5. Humanist Manifest II (1973) “humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in a prayer hearing God,...is an unproved and outmoded faith” (Pual Kurtz, ed., Humanist Manifestos I and II, p. 7-23)
- d. Other world religions.
- i. Muslim apologist Ahmed Deedat says “Out of the four thousand differing manuscripts the Christians boast about, the Church fathers just selected four which tallied with their prejudices and called them Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John” (Deedat, Is the Bible God’s Word? P. 24)
- e. Unbiblical philosophies
- i. Bertrand Russell “Why I am not a Christian”
 - ii. Anti-supernaturalism: Benedict Spinoza (1632-1677) Asserts, If therefore, anything should come to pass in nature which does not follow from her laws, it would also be in contravention to the order which God has established in nature forever through universal natural laws: it would therefore be a contravention to God’s nature and laws, and, consequently, belief in it would throw doubt upon everything, and lead to atheism. I thinkwe can again conclude....that a miracleis a mere absurdity (Spinoza, Theologico-Political Tractatus, p. 87) by the way see Colossians 2.8

3. Christianity has corruptions from within:

- a. Aberrant Doctrine...(Open Theism)
- b. Aberrant Movements...(TV evangelists...faith Teachers...Liberalism)
- c. From the religious and non-religious academicians such as the Jesus Seminar

4. People come to Gospel by pre-evangelism

- a. Augustine- by the debater [Helpidius] of the Manicheans (confessions)
- b. Simon Greenleaf- by his students presenting evidence. He later looked for himself (see Testimony of the Evangelists)

- c. Josh McDowell – Lee Strobel—Frank Morison. All who sought to disprove the faith and then wrote books in its defense...*Evidence that demands a verdict---Case for Christ---Who Moved the Stone?*
- d. C.S Lewis—was an atheist until someone asked him “By what standard are you saying there is injustice in the World.”
- e. Thomas the apostle- Was convinced by proof provided by Jesus (Jn. 20:26-28) later history says he was martyred planting Christianity in south India

5. Because if you have no reasons for your faith you have what is called an unreasonable or unjustified faith which is fideism which is self defeating:

- a. E.g. If there are reasons why someone should be a *fideist*, they are not a *true fideist* because they are giving reasons.

6. Jesus never bypassed the head to get to the heart nor the scriptures which He testified were the Truth.

- a. **Isaiah 1:18** "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.
 - i. God doesn't give us something we can't do ...if it seems we are incapable he will empower us to do it.
 - ii. In His commandments are His enablement's.
- b. **Matthew 22:37-38** Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is *the* first and great commandment.
- c. **Mark 2:10-11** But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."
- d. **John 3:12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?
- e. **Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, . . . present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. . . and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. . .”

7. Because the use of feelings alone is not a good test for what is true

- a. Opposing religious systems use this method like Mormons burning in the bosom for the test of the Book of Mormon for truth (hope you didn't have indigestion for your test of Truth)
- b. Feelings can't be the ultimate test for truth because "feelings change but truth does not change. Truth is absolute.
- c. Feelings can be how one "holds" the truth but not how one tests for truth. [Adequate tests for truth see *Christian Apologetics* by Norman Geisler.]

8. Paul who wrote by the Holy Spirit a majority of the epistles in the NT primarily used reason to defend the Gospel.

Acts 9:22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

Acts 17:2-4 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

Acts 18:4, 19 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks...And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Acts 19:8 "And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God."

*To be ignorant and simple now-not to be able to meet the enemies on their own ground - would be to throw down our weapons, and to betray our uneducated brethren who have, under God, no defense but us against the intellectual attacks of the heathen. (C. S. Lewis, *Weight of Glory*, p. 50)*

Remember the METHOD MAY CHANGE BUT THE MESSAGE never does!

Varieties of Apologetics. * Joseph Holden class notes unpublished-

1. **Historical:** Emphasizes the need to start with historical evidence in an attempt to defend the truth of Christianity. IT is part of the broader category of evidential apologetics

Proponents: Gary Habermas

- 2. Presuppositional:** Unlike the evidentialist and classical approach that begins by arguing for Christianity from rational or evidential common ground, presuppositionalism starts by assuming Christian truth about God and Jesus as revealed in Scripture (Van Til), and/or in some instances employ the laws of logic to test rational consistency (Clark). The goal of the presuppositionalist is to demonstrate, in any of several ways, that only the biblical presuppositions afford the tools for one to make sense of reality.

Stresses the need to presuppose certain aspects of reality (meaning and Language) and the basic truth of Christianity. Then proceed to show opposing worldviews are false by employing different kinds of methods

Proponents: Cornelius Van Til; John Frame; Gordon Clark; Edward Carnell; Greg Bahnsen

- 3. Fideistic/Experiential:** This approach is distinguished from the previous models of defending the faith by its belief that apologetics should be accomplished by faith, not fallen man's reason. That is to say, one's theological knowledge of God is discovered in the Scriptures and can only be engaged and applied by faith. No rational justification or proof is necessary as a defense. They argue for the sufficiency of faith to discover and answer theological challenges.

Proponents: Martin Luther; Soren Kierkegaard; Karl Barth

- 4. Classical:** Stresses the importance of arguing from the existence of God and employing various historical evidences to defend the truthfulness of Christianity. The classical apologist seeks to establish Christianity God apart from special revelation (Bible). Then proceed to draw rational inferences such as "if God exists then miracles are possible. Classical apologists also employ philosophical and theistic Apologetics. They start with theistic proofs because they believe that facts are not self-evident, rather they are interpreted through one's worldview (see Jn 12.28-29)

Proponents: Augustine; C.S. Lewis; William Lane Craig; Norman L. Geisler; J.P. Moreland

- 5. Evidential:** Stresses the need for evidence in demonstrating the truthfulness of Christianity. This evidence include historical, archaeological, experiential, and prophetic. It is a broad category that overlaps with many other systems. Evidential apologetics would be the second step in the classical system.

Proponents: William Paley; J.W. Montgomery; Joseph Butler; Bernard Ramm; Josh McDowell

Limitations and rules of Apologetics. From unpublished notes from Jo Holden which he Got from N. Geisler SEC unpublished class notes

- Apologetics should always be a **SLAVE** to the **GOSPEL**

A. The Limits of Apologetics

- a. How far can apologetics go in bringing someone to faith in Christ?
Apologetics can save no one!
- b. **It's great for pre-evangelism like Josh McDowell would say in the preface of one of his books it never led him to salvation but cleared away some excuses but it was the Lord Jesus knocking on his heart while he sought to disprove Christianity!**

B. The 7 laws of the Apologist.

- a. The "Seven Laws of the Apologist" are principles that the apologist can use while engaging in the defense of Christianity. These laws are easily remembered in the form of the acronym A-N-S-W-E-R-S. They are based on Dr. J.W. Montgomery's tape lectures (Sensible Christianity).

A-always give the gospel first

N-never be offensive

S-search out the real issues

W-walls are to be removed

E-evangelistic techniques are to be used

R-relationships are essential-- /count the cost

S-self analysis of our own doubts about Christ

-you are only as strong as what you believe in

Why Study Philosophical Issues?

I. What is philosophy?

philosophias

Phileo - _____

Sophia - _____

It is the discipline that teaches one how to *think properly* and according to the *rules* of thought (e.g. laws of non-contradiction - 1 Tim 6:20)

What philosophy is *not*

Not how one “feels” about a topic

Not limited to an examination of worldviews only

Doesn't amount to skepticism even though much philosophy is skeptical

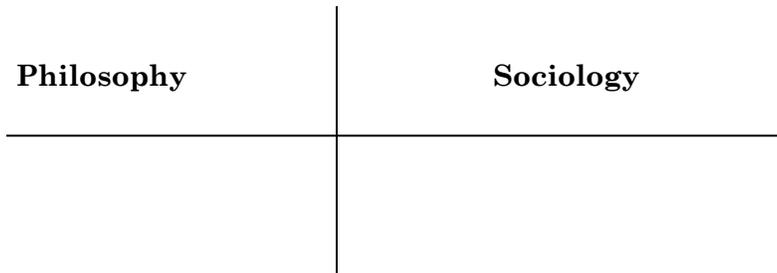
“Philosophers don't agree”

“There's no certainty in philosophy”

“Paul said to “beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy” (Col 2:8)

A. Emphasis of Philosophy

The discipline of Philosophy can be described as:



Another emphasis

It is the discipline that studies the *foundational* elements of other disciplines such as science, history, religion etc.

B. What is studied in philosophy?

1. Metaphysics – What is real?
2. Epistemology – How do we know?
3. Ethics – What is right, good or moral?
4. Logic – How should we think?
5. Ontology – The study of being?
6. Semantics/Hermeneutics – meaning and interpretation?
7. Philosophy of religion – *What* or *Who* is ultimate?
8. Aesthetics – What is beautiful?

C. Why study philosophical issues?

1. Because we can't do theology or study our Bibles
2. It's impossible not to hold a philosophy. Everyone has a philosophy of life called a "worldview."
3. Because we are rational beings, not animals who rely on brute instinct.
4. Because thinking properly helps fulfill part of the greatest commandment to worship Him with our minds (Mt 22:37-38)

5. Because we are to meditate on whatever is true (Phil 4:6-8; Jn 20:30; Jude 14-15) and avoid contradictions (1 Tim 6:20)
6. Because theological discussions often jump to the philosophical level
7. Because it offers a common ground with non-believers (Acts 14; 17A; 17:28ff – appeals to nature, Scripture, philosophy)
8. Because no one can come to Christ without first believing that God exists (Heb 11:6)
9. Because it helps eliminate intellectual objection to Christianity, exposing the real issue: moral rebellion!
10. Because he who can think will always be free (Jn 8:32). Second, it helps you to become a more thoughtful person.

“Good philosophy must exist if for no other reason than to refute bad philosophy”

- C. S. Lewis, *Weight of Glory*

D. How do we study philosophy?

1. Academic vs. the devotional approach
2. Take the proper precautions
3. Do not get enmeshed into it
4. One does not need to know every aspect of a certain philosophy. Find the underlying presupposition then refute it (discover then treat)

E. Reason and Revelation

In our discussion about the role of philosophy, the student should *not* be left with the idea that reason has been elevated above the Bible. The following chart will be helpful in clarifying the proper role of reason and revelation (Scripture).

Reason above Revelation¹

YES	NO
Epistemologically	Ontologically
In knowing	In Being
In Discovering	In Submitting

¹ Norman L. Geisler and Paul Feinberg, *Introduction to Philosophy: A Christian Perspective* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980).

The Bible and Culture²

How did we get to this culture gap from the Bible the truth to what the World looks at as a myth.

It started in the 16th century where a series of transitions that led to the modern view of Scriptures.

1. Philosophical transition

Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

Benedict de Spinoza (1632-1677)

2. Scientific transition

Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo (1564-1642)

Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

3. Theological transition (Reformation)

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Jahann Gutenberg (1400-1468)

4. Intellectual transition (Enlightenment) (1688-1800)

Mechanical universe and miracles

² notes from Joe Holden via AE Class and Bibliology Class @ CCBC 2004

Secular over the Sacred

Reason over Revelation

Natural theology over revealed theology

David Hume (d. 1776) (skepticism)

Immanuel Kant (d. 1804) (appearance vs. reality)

BIBLE

Pre-Enlightenment View

Post-Enlightenment View

5. The fruit of these transitions was Fideism (1800-1900)

Faith and Reason Separated (fact/value dichotomy)

FACT

VALUE

Proliferation of the Cults in “Burned Over District”

Higher Criticism Flourishes

Charles Darwin (1809-1892)

6. Liberalism enters the United States

Educational Institutions under attack

Neo Orthodoxy born (mixed scholarship with fideism, experience)

7. Cultural/Education/Religious transition

Secular Humanism (1933)

John Dewey (1859-1952)

8. Judicial transition

Bible is isolated and marginalized from society

A. Judicial activism

1. 1947 *Everson v. Board of Education* (330 US 1)—first cite separation of church and state.
2. 1961 *Torcaso v. Watkins* (367 US 488)—court ruled that secular humanism is a religion. This led to the removal of God from all public life.
3. 1962 *Engle v. Vital* (370 US 421) –ruled that state (NY) formulated prayer was unconstitutional.
4. 1963 *Abingdon School District v. Schempp* (377 US 203)—devotional Bible reading is unconstitutional and that New Testament could be psychologically harmful.

5. 1980 *Stone v. Graham* (449 US 39)—court decided that posting the Ten Commandments was unconstitutional.

B. Christians are social/intellectual outcasts –no seat at the table of ideas.

9. Modern implication for the Bible

Relativism takes root after God (standard) eliminated from public life

Bible is seen as *outdated* and even *harmful* to read

Compartmentalized *secular* and *sacred* (never will meet, historical separated from the spiritual)

Bible has competition (New religious movements: immigration, new cultural ideas, travel)