



Biblical Apologetics

A Basic Guide to Defending Your Faith with
Presuppositional Apologetics

Made by and for



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Scripture & Definition

Notes

1 Peter 3:15

ESV “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

Jude 1:3

ESV “Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”

What is “Presuppositional Apologetics?”

Presuppositionalism is an epistemological (the study of the method and grounds of knowledge) school of Christian apologetics that examines the presuppositions on which worldviews are based, and invites comparison and contrast between the results of those presuppositions. **A**

Presupposition is: an act of presupposing or an assumption made in advance : a preliminary supposition

Overview & Purpose

The goal of every encounter we have, throughout our lives as Christians, with other people is to share the Gospel with the lost so that they would come to know Christ, be rescued from eternal damnation, and live a life of grateful servitude. The other goal is to educate the found through knowledge by working through the scriptures to strengthen their faith, hope, and love to serve Christ and edify the body.

Sometimes it is necessary through the course of our walk as Christians to stand firm in the faith and make a defense of it. But, unfortunately, the Gospel we want to share is sometimes not received with loving arms or enthusiastic responses. Sometimes it is just the opposite. In these cases, a defense is sometimes needed to soften the mind to reach the heart.

Apologetics is never a substitute for the Gospel, nor will it transform anyone's heart. Still, it can prepare and calm the mind for the eventual and deliberate proclamation of the Gospel, which has true life-saving power! Apologetics is more than arguing to be right or being able to best an opponent with a contrition of words. It shows the person that you are engaged with them and are willing to spend time with them in open and logical debate while answering questions sober, mindful, and firmly.

In the coming presentation, we will identify and explain scripture's key elements and debate methods for apologetics. We never leave the arena of faith and belief where God reigns supreme, and we are defiled by sin; we will discuss how to engage people in the reality of the situation, as it is our responsibility to address this in our encounters and come full circle back to the Gospel. To the Glory of God!

Notes

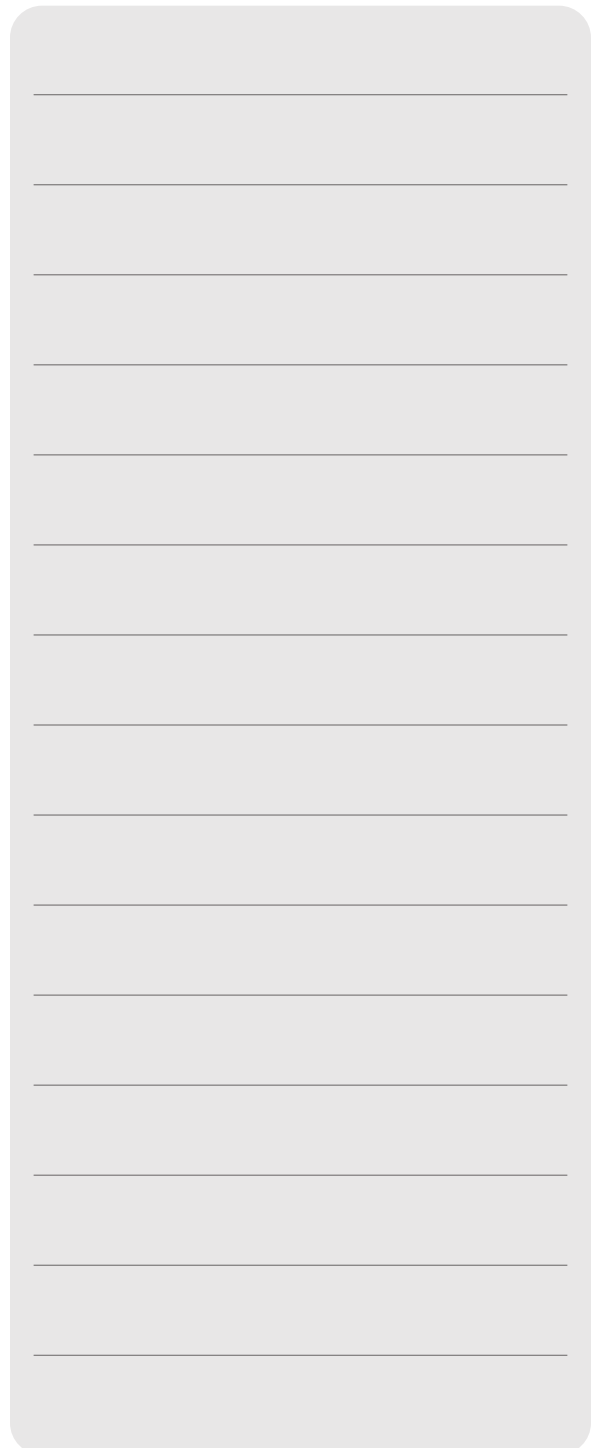
Objectives

Notes

1. Learn the method of Presuppositional Apologetics with the intent of sharing the Gospel

2. Gain a deeper understanding of Scripture in order to be equipped to defend your faith

3. To become comfortable and confident in most settings to engage someone and share the gospel with them.





Biblical Apologetics

Week 1

The goal of apologetics is to
share the Gospel.

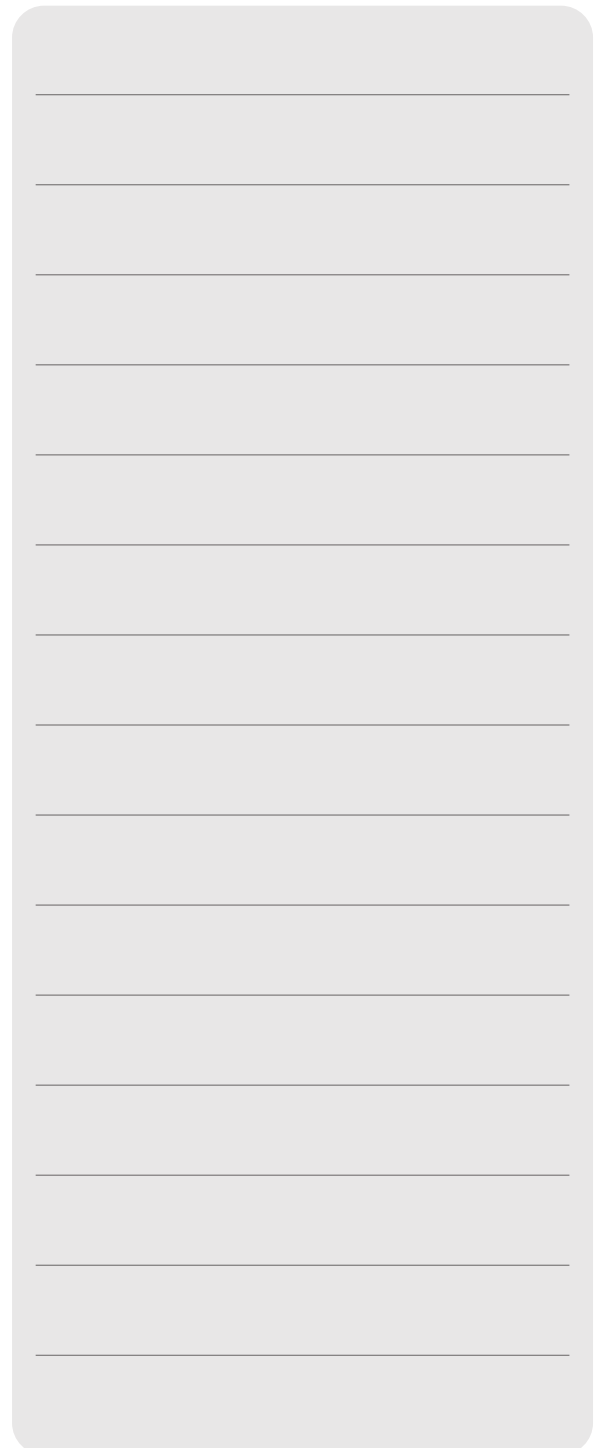
Week 1

Notes

3. Why is our ethos important?

a. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, (1Thessalonians 1:6-9)

b. The way we live our lives is of the utmost importance. We can talk all day long, but if our walk does not match our talk, no one will believe that you believe what you preach. Paul consistently walked upright in and out of view, resulting in his testimony never diminishing.





Biblical Apologetics

Week 2

Never leave the ring of reality.

Week 2

Reality Points:

1. God creates all
2. All are obligated to God as the creature
3. God Makes himself known to us
4. We are all sinners
5. Christ redeems us.
6. All knowledge comes from God's revelation

Notes

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Biblical Apologetics

Week 3

“Rope a Dope” - Let the puncher tire himself out under the weight of their positions. (The Quicksand Quotient)

Week 3

1. Anything apart from the truth as an explanation of reality will always crumble under its own weight because it leads to nothing. They are asking good questions about the person's position to reveal that the foundation of the position they hold will sink under its own weight.

a. We are trying to take all theories and conclusions to “ad absurdum,” which means that at the core of everything that is not biblical it is absurd.

The idea is to let the opponent use his best punches to tire himself out to offer the solution and only logical reasoning...

Example: All people are born good, and all their decisions are neutral... Work this backward.

2. The “ad hominem” argument. Literally means “to the person” The objective of this argument is to show the person that they cannot live up to their own moral standards and to be able to elaborate on why that is. In other words, “in an ad hominem argument, the comparison is between a person's basic claims or commitments, on the one hand, and that same person's behavior, complaints, assertions on the other.”



Biblical Apologetics

Week 4

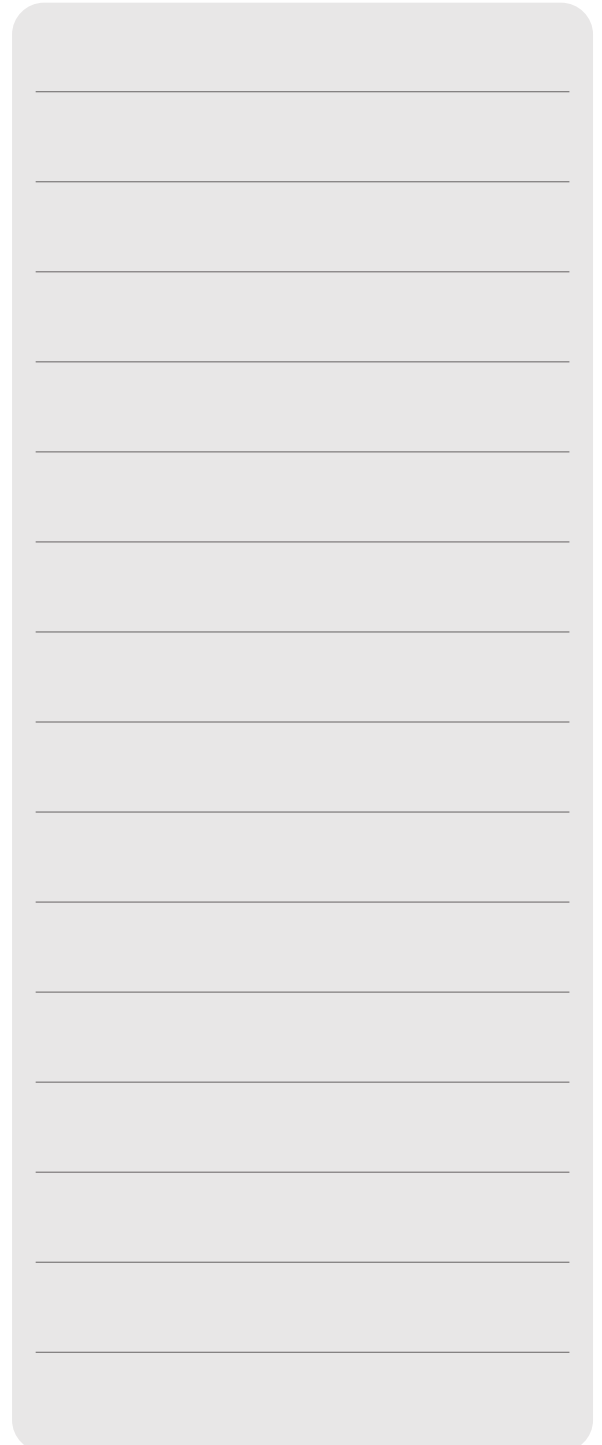
Identifying someone's
presuppositions.

Week 4

Acts 17:22-28

22 So Paul, standing amid the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,” ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

Notes



Week 4

Notes

What is a presupposition?

A presupposition is an inclination to act, respond, or think a certain way, whether we know we have it or not. We all have presuppositions personally, societally, and nationally. Identifying these pressups will help you gain an entry point or a “point of contact” to engage someone, just as Paul engages the stoics by addressing their polytheism.

How do we identify one?

Time and a genuine interest in someone else’s life and circumstances. A genuine desire to share the Gospel.

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Week 4

Notes

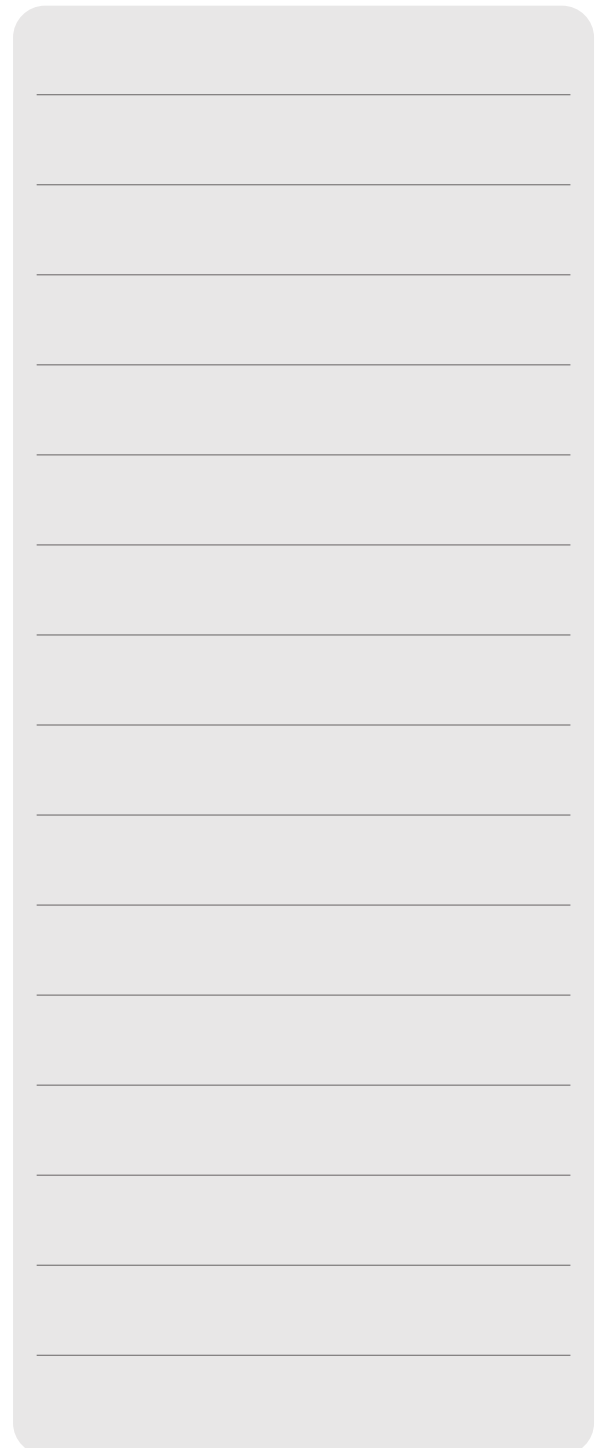
Why is it important to identify it?

As stated above, identifying a person's presupposition builds a bridge from where we stand, which is the truth, to where we are to lead them to The Gospel.

What are some common presuppositions?

The Big Three:

1. Religious
2. Ethnicity
3. Race





Biblical Apologetics

Week 5

FAQ's & Common
Misunderstandings

Week 5

People use some common issues as an excuse to reject God. This week we review some of them to apply our logical reality to them.

- If God is good, why is there evil?
- Why is there suffering?
- Where did evil come from?
- I've never seen God...
- What's wrong with subjective moralism?
- Transgenderism is natural...
- I feel like if I follow God, I won't be myself anymore, and I'll lose all my friends...
- How do we know Christianity is the correct belief?

Notes





Biblical Apologetics

Week 6

Sparring Session: Using what we've learned to make a defense of the faith. Always end with the Gospel.

Week 6

Notes

Pair up and pull from a hat a random argument. One will play devil's advocate and argue for; the other will use what they've learned to defend their faith and try to deliver the Gospel if appropriate. Hopefully, everything we have touched on will culminate with everything we've learned and be able to apply them to the workplace, school, home, and other everyday environments.

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Congratulations on completing Biblical Apologetics

We hope to see you in other classes!

In the meantime, if you have any questions or feedback regarding this class, feel free to contact our care team at **care@thelandmark.church**

All curriculum is based on the work of Cornelius Van Till, K. Scott Oliphint, and William Edgar.