

Disciples Church

A Firm Foundation

Series Introduction, What Is Our Ultimate Standard?

Week of June 6, 2018

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What is an apologetic?  *A defense. Specifically, to give a defense of the Christian faith.*
2. Does the person who is dead in sin seek God of their own so-called ‘free will’? *No.*
   1. Reference Romans 3:10- 18
3. Why is giving evidence to a non-believer problematic? *When a Christian gives evidence to the unbeliever, we place them on the throne as the judge. We are allowing them to put God on the stand and question Him. But, God is the judge of man, man is not the judge.*
   1. Reference James 4:12a
   2. Reference Romans 9:20
4. How is it good news to realize that our job as evangelists is not to try and convince people of the evidence *for* God? *Salvation is not up to us! We rely on the Holy Spirit to regenerate the hearts of sinful men. We can boldly proclaim the gospel and trust God’s sovereign will. We don’t have to worry that salvation is somehow in our hands, what a terrible burden that would be!*
5. Why is it wrong to lie? *Because God gives us the standard for morality in the scriptures.*
   1. Without scripture as our standard for morality, can we truly know right and wrong? *We cannot know morality certainly apart from God’s revelation, however God has written his law on our hearts and so men and women everywhere know to some degree what is right and wrong.*
   2. How do you see morality changing within our culture due to the rise of secularism? *Discussion question.*
6. What is the goal of presuppositional apologetics? *To share the gospel.*
   1. Why is it important to speak truth in love? *We put on display the gospel when we interact with the lost. If we are haughty or frustrated, we are failing to extend love to our neighbor and thus are not honoring the Lord. We need to honor the Lord so that people see the distinctiveness of the gospel in and through us.*
7. What is an ultimate standard? *Something that we hold to be unquestionable but cannot prove from anything more foundational.* What is the ultimate standard for non-believers? *Themselves.* What is the ultimate standard for Christians? *The Word of God.*
8. Why is this not problematic for the Christian, “The bible is self-authenticating because God says in the bible that it is His word*.”? The Christian knows that the word of God is the word of God because God has saved the Christian and revealed to the Christian this truth in Scripture through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Christian worldview relies upon God as our ultimate standard for everything.*
   1. *Furthermore: The Bible not only provides criteria for itself, but does so for all other facts. It gives us a foundation (the biblical God) for rational reasoning (including laws of logic), science, morality, reliability of our senses and memory, and so on. It even gives us a foundation for why we should not be inconsistent or arbitrary (because God isn’t, and we are to imitate Him — Eph. 5: 1). The Bible passes its own criteria for truth (it is consistent, non-arbitrary, etc.) and provides criteria for everything else. The Christian circle is not a vicious circle, but one that can account for all human experience and reasoning.*
9. How is an atheistic or non-believing worldview a vicious circle?
   1. *The non-believing worldview cannot account for any ultimate truth; therefore, they are caught in a vicious circle.*
10. What have you learned tonight that has challenged you? What have you learned tonight that has encouraged you?