

Disciples Church

A Firm Foundation

Series Introduction: What Is Our Ultimate Standard?

Week of June 6, 2018

**Handout Notes**

* **Series Introduction**

What is an apologetic? A defense of the Christian faith.

* Acts 22:1 “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense [apologia] that I now make before you.”

***Evidence***

When the Christian gives evidence to unbelievers, he/she places them on the throne as the judge.

God is the Judge, not man:

* Job 38:1-10
* Romans 9:20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?”
* James 4:12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

***Natural Man***

* Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
* 1 Corinthians 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
* Romans 3:11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

Natural man cannot please God. He is dead in sin.

None can have true knowledge of spiritual things unless God reveals it to them.

* 1 Corinthians 2:10-16
* Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

***What Is a Presupposition?***

**Presupposition Definition:** a thing tacitly assumed beforehand at the beginning of a line of argument or course of action.

* It is the lens by which we interpret what we observe.

**Christian fundamental presupposition:** The God of the Bible is the one, true God, and we can know about God through His creation and His revelation.

***Truth***

* Non-believers cannot account for truth.
* We know God is truth, as He has revealed this to us in the Scriptures.
* God’s word reveals logic, physical properties about the world, and morality to us.

***The Goal of Presuppositional Apologetics:***

Present the gospel in love.

* The only way to escape the futility of an atheistic worldview is by the gospel of Jesus Christ.
* Proverbs 26:5 ​Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.
* **Our Ultimate Standard**

***What Is Our Ultimate Standard?***

Ultimate Standard: Something that we hold to be unquestionable but cannot prove from anything more foundational.

*We do not use a lesser standard to prove a greater standard.*

God has made all creatures, including ourselves, for His glory. He is the Lord; we are His servants.

* Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
* 2 Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ
* Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
* Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

**All men and women know God exists: Romans 1:18-23**

***Scripture Is the Ultimate Standard:***

* Matthew 4:4 But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
* John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”
* 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness
* Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple

How do we know that the word of God is truly His word? The Bible is self-authenticating.

* Christian ultimate standard: God
* Atheist/non-believer ultimate standard: Whatever they decide

***Conclusion:***

1 Peter 3:15 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

*When we grow our understanding of Scripture, we grow in our affections and love for God.*