

Disciples Church

A Firm Foundation

Presuppositional Apologetics vs. Evidential Apologetics

Week of July 11, 2018

**Handout Notes**

**For audio of previous lessons, please visit**

[**http://discipleschurch.com/summer-apologetics-series/**](http://discipleschurch.com/summer-apologetics-series/)

*This audio/link is intended for Disciples Church MidWeek participants only.*

**To submit questions for consideration for our upcoming Q&A night, please email** questions@discipleschurch.com

# Recap

Presupposition:

* An assumed belief or interpreting lens by which we see the world.

Christian Presupposition:

* Scriptures are the word of God.

# True Knowledge

God’s word is the chief source of understanding true knowledge.

John Gill says, “This is the first of all sciences to be learned, and it is the principal one; it is the basis and foundation of all the rest, on which they depend; and it is the head, the fountain, the root and source, from whence they spring; and unless a man knows God, knows God in Christ, and worships him in his fear, in spirit and in truth, according to his revealed will, he knows nothing as he ought to know; and all his knowledge will be of no avail and profit to him; this is the first and chief thing in spiritual and evangelical knowledge, and without which all natural knowledge will signify nothing.”

In order for us to know anything for certain about anything, we must know all things exhaustively or get truth from the One who does. Otherwise, what we don’t know could prove what we think we know to be wrong.

The nonbeliever denies the obvious:

* God exists, and He has revealed Himself to us through nature and His word.

# Presuppositional Apologetics vs. Evidential Apologetics

It is necessary to defend the faith:

* 1 Peter 3:15
* Acts 17:2-4

## Presuppositional Apologetics

Presuppositional apologetics defined: A school of Christian apologetics that believes the Christian faith is the only basis for rational thought. It presupposes that the Bible is divine revelation and attempts to expose flaws in other worldviews. It claims that apart from presuppositions, one could not make sense of any human experience, and there can be no set of neutral assumptions from which to reason with a non-Christian.

Basis from Scripture:

* God created the world.
* God is not dependent upon the creation in any way.
* Those who are in sin are actively suppressing the truth of God.

Fools are not capable of understanding true knowledge.

* Proverbs 1:7
* Proverbs 15:14

Theology comes first:

* The gospel is our foundation.
* What we believe about God should shape how we talk to an unbelieving world.

Unbelievers are inconsistent with their professed worldview:

* The very reason and logic they claim to use and depend on, without God, is foolishness.
* *Because nonbelievers suppress the truth and cannot know everything in all time, they do not know whether reason will work the same way today as it did yesterday or tomorrow. It’s a giant guessing game. It’s a vicious cycle.*

What is our goal? We share the gospel:

* All men have sinned (Romans 3:23).
* The sinful man rejects God (Psalm 14:1).
* They do not seek Him (Romans 3:11).
* Sinful man needs to be regenerated by God in order to be saved (John 3:3).
* Salvation is only through Christ (John 14:6).
* We must hear or have the gospel communicated to us in order to respond to it (Romans 10:17).
* The Holy Spirit regenerates our hearts if He wills (Titus 3:5; Romans 9:16).
* We respond in faith, which is also a gift of God (Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8-9).

The foolish deny the existence of God. Those in their sin – they do not seek God. We must be quick to point all sinners to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

## Evidential Apologetics

Evidential apologetics defined: An approach to Christian apologetics emphasizing the use of evidence to demonstrate that God exists. The evidence is supposed to be evidence both the believer and nonbeliever share; that is to say, one need not presuppose God's existence.

The evidential apologist shares evidences with nonbelievers in order to get them to ascent to God.

Evidential apologists tend to believe in Synergism or Arminianism.

* Synergism: Salvation involves some form of cooperation between divine grace and human freedom.
* Synergists wrongly interpret the Scriptures and thus arrive at the conclusion that God only saves those who, of their own supposed free will, place their faith in God.

Man is absolutely enslaved and dead in sin, desperate for God’s sovereign, effective, saving grace.

* Romans 3:10-18

### Is Evidentialism Pointless?

No.

* The purpose of evidence is to bolster and embolden our own faith in God.

### Don’t Argue the Evidence

The natural man is unable to discern the truth.

What he needs most is a clear and coherent unpacking of the gospel.

When the evidentialist gives evidence to prove God, they place the nonbeliever on the throne to judge God. Man does not judge God; God judges man.