Disciples Church

A Firm Foundation – Lesson 7

Week of July 25, 2018

**TEACHING NOTES**

Lesson 7 – Practical Dialog

**Culturally professing Christian –** *person claiming to be Christian because they grew up in church or one time prayed a prayer but all of the biblical warnings of not truly being saved reflect the way they live. We still want them to see the truth of scripture and though they may claim to be Christians the word of God our only source of truth gives enough warnings for us to be concerned and lovingly confront them. (this is what James does in James 2!)*

Cultural Christian: I’m a Christian, but I don’t see the need to attend church. I have a personal relationship with God, and that’s all that matters.

Christian: As a Christian we must live according to Gods word, In Matthew 7 Jesus warns us about people who think they are saved but really aren’t because He never knew them, then he goes on to say everyone who hears these words of mine and does them is like a man who built his house on the rock. His analogy was given to make it clear that those who think they can live without God and his word and yet call themselves Christians are fooling themselves. I’m asking you to hear this today out of my love for you. I don’t want anyone to be in this spot thinking they were good and saved and yet in the end to hear depart from me for I never knew you. God calls us to be a part of the larger body of believers in Hebrews 13:3 God says to exhort one another every day as long as it is called today I hope you see how necessary this is. You can’t claim to be a Christian and then live contrary to the way God says a Christian lives. Do you believe the bible, is it authoritative to you?

CC: Yes I’m a Christian, I was raised in the church. But, I don’t attend anymore. I think we just need to be good people, you know?

Christian: Okay but if we need to be good people where do you get your morals from? If you accept one part of Gods word then how do you decide which parts you don’t accept? You said we need to be good people but Jesus said in Matthew 5:48 “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” How do you do that? Jesus also said “If you love me you’ll keep my commandments (John 14:15).” So how can you do this if you are just supposed to be a good person?

CC: Jesus was perfect so we don’t have to be. You just try hard to do good but no ones perfect.

Christian: I agree Jesus was perfect and we aren’t perfect but how do you know these truths? For that matter how do you know any truth?

CC: Well the bible shows us this but you can see it by looking around too.

Christian: So that’s back to my main point, if you decide what you want to believe from the bible and what you don’t need to then you aren’t truly obeying Christ and he himself said that if you love him you will obey him. When you get to decide what you like you have become your own standard but you’re limited in your knowledge so you can’t be certain that the things you decide to follow are right.

CC: Well I’m using the bible so of course they are right.

Christian: This brings back to the problem, what parts of the bible are you using? It’s a trap to think you can chose what you’d like from the scriptures and reject the rest. God doesn’t give you that option. If something is inconsistent can it be true? If it’s not true then does it make sense to follow it?

CC: That’s your opinion though the bible says you are not to judge.

Christian: Actually in 1 Cor. 5 God says we are to judge those who claim to be Christians and hold them accountable to the profession of faith they make. This is why I’m engaging you now. You see if you only read parts of scripture you will have a false understanding of who God is and what he’s required of you. I am not telling you my opinion I am telling what scripture says. My bigger concern for you is that you’ve trusted in something God has never called Christianity or true faith. I plead with you to repent of this idea that you don’t have to trust Gods word and instead turn to Christ and take up the scriptures that you may know who you claim to believe in and what that means for your life!

**Liberal professing Christianity**

Liberal Christian: We don’t think that God wrote the Bible. We think it was written by fallible human beings who were inspired by (not dictated to by) the Holy Spirit. Hence, we don’t consider it to be infallible or inerrant.

Christian: I disagree with your claim that the bible is not infallible or inerrant. God has declared that His word is perfect in Psalm 119 and Jesus prayed in John 17 that God would sanctify the believers in truth then said your word is truth. However if the scriptures aren’t inerrant or infallible according to your worldview then how can you make all these truth claims about them?

LC: Just because we don’t believe scripture is inerrant or infallible doesn’t mean we can’t have truth.

C: So according to your worldview who decides what is true? What objective ultimate standard do you have to decide what is true and what isn’t?

LC: There are so many inconsistencies in scripture you certainly can’t claim that it’s all true or read it all with a literal view. If you’re honest you’d have to admit that even you don’t read every passage as a literal interpretation.

C: Again I reject your claim that the bible is full of inconsistencies and I do read passages literally when that is the genre of writing, however if you don’t believe the bible in infallible then why should it matter according to your worldview that I be honest? Do you have to read the passages about not lying literally?

LC: We realize that there is no “objective, one, right way” to interpret a passage – and we recognize that there is no reading of any text – including the Bible – that doesn’t involve interpretation. We also realize that each person interprets the text via their own personal experiences, education, upbringing, socio-political context, and more.

C: Are you sure about that? Is it true that there is no objective right way to interpret scripture? You see when you remain consistent with your worldview you are left to absurdity. If there is no right interpretation of scripture no objective truth as you claim then even your own statement doesn’t need to be accepted. Please see how you continue to contradict yourself, and this is what you’re left with when you deny the objective truth of God’s word. Either Gods word is infallible and inerrant or we do not have any objective truth and are left to absurdity. You see you make a bunch of truth claims but then say it’s all open to interpretation and no one true objective way is available. This means your own claim isn’t actually true since according to it there cannot be an objective truth. You need to repent of this absurdity and turn to Christ. God’s word is truth and you are made in His image which is why you want to make truth claims but you’ve become Lord of your own life so that you can decide what you think is best and this truly is a arrogant ground to be standing on. This is where I stood when I denied God, but by His grace he caused me to repent and believe and I am pleading with you to avoid the trap of Romans 1, but rather repent and trust in Christ!

***Christianity may be true for you but it isn’t true for me***

Atheist: I can see that believing in Christianity ‘helps’ you, that it is ‘true for you’. But it is not ‘true for me’. Everybody should be free to choose his or her own belief.

Christian: Is that true?

Atheist: What do you mean?

*Explanation: We are answering them according to their folly. The folly is in their statement.*

Christian: You’re making a truth claim that contradicts itself. You are saying that truth is true and not true. You said something can be *true for me*, but it is *not true for you*. If that’s what truth is, then how can you know anything at all? If your worldview is correct, you’re left with no ability to have any truth. But this is a problem because you do know things truly, you live as if there are most definitely truths that the world should abide by and that have deep meaning to you. You do this because you are made in the image of God and you can’t escape that. I’m not trying to show you that you’re wrong for the sake of an argument, I care about your soul and I’m trying to show you how you will not live according to this worldview you profess, your life and your worldview will be inconsistent. Please consider why this is true. You won’t live according to your world view because God has created you and has given you truth and value.

Scripture says that you’re suppressing the truth of God. My friend, let me tell you that only in Christ do we have a foundation that shows us true knowledge. Jesus said, (John 14:6) I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Truth isn’t up to each of us, truth is only in Christ. Please see that in your desire to want to make truth to be whatever you want, you have fallen short of God’s command that you be perfect! But, if you confess your sins and trust in Christ for salvation – you will have Christ’s perfect righteousness upon you and truly find meaning in this life!

***The church is full of hypocrites***

Atheist: Christianity has been responsible for a huge amount of killing and wars throughout history and the newspapers are full of supposed Christians who are pedophiles, liars, adulterers, murderers and abusers. If Christianity were true it would make people better.

Christian: According to my worldview, churches are full of imperfect people, some who claim faith in Jesus and are in fact being made better overtime, and others who falsely claim faith in Jesus, but don’t actually follow Him or trust Him--these false testifiers often end up perusing heinous unrepentant sin. My worldview can account for that. But again, those who have been saved truly by Christ, they do grow in holiness and obedience.

But let me ask you, according to your worldview, what’s the problem with pedophiles and adulterers?

Atheist: Are you kidding? Pedophilia is disgusting! It’s just wrong.

Christian: Why? If, according to the evolutionary worldview, we’re just advanced chemical processes and reactions, how is there justification for any absolute right and wrong? You have no moral justification to find pedophilia and adultery wrong, according to your worldview.

But, God has written his law on your heart and made you in his image. You cannot escape the reality that you live as an image bearer of God, that is why you abhor pedophilia. God is a God of justice, therefore it makes sense that all humanity has a sense of justice. It makes sense according to the Christian worldview. The fact that God is Just and that each of us are sinners is why we need the gospel. The gospel is …*(end here in thee example for time, but tell the crowd you’d explain the gospel)*

***It's all Chaos***

Atheist: Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear: There are no gods, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That’s the end for me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either”

Christian: So what. According to your worldview, if everything is meaningless, then why do you care what I believe?

Atheist: Because you’re wrong and your teaching lies.

Christian: I’m not teaching lies, God is truth in fact in Romans 3:4 it says Let God be true though every man were a liar. Jesus also said in John 17 sanctify them in truth your word is truth. My God and His word are true, your claim that I am teaching lies is false, however if all of life is without a true moral foundation, then why do you care if I lie? According to your worldview, there is no foundation for morality and thus it’s perfectly fine for people to lie and cheat and murder.

The Christian worldview provides you with a logical foundation for ethics and meaning.

You see, because you are made in God’s image, you can’t escape attempting to search for meaning.

1: Rom 1:19

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them

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***Suffering Disproves God/explanation for morality***

Atheist: Doesn’t the fact that there is all this evil in the world prove that God doesn’t exist?

Christian: I deny your claim that God cannot exist because evil exists. According to my worldview, Just because evil exists does not give us a good reason for God not to exist. According to scripture, God has a morally just reason for evil to exist.

But, according to your worldview, if you deny God, what ultimate standard can you use to call anything evil?

Atheist: My ultimate standard? What do you mean?

Christian: We all have beliefs that are supported by other beliefs. I could ask you, “How do you know the Earth is round.” And you would give me an argument. Perhaps you would say, I know the Earth is round because Astronauts have flown into space and shown us pictures. I could then ask you, “How do you know that to be true?” And you could say, “Because I traveled to Cape Canaveral and saw the Space Shuttle lift off, I witnessed it with my own eyes.” And I could say, “How do you know your observations are true and reliable?” This could go on for a while, but eventually you would reveal to me your ultimate standard. That ultimate standard (for you – the atheist) is your supposed free will. You’ve decided that your observations are true. But, for the Christian, our ultimate standard is God’s word.

So, again, what is the ultimate standard by which you can call anything evil?

Atheist: Through science!

Christian: Would you agree that observation is fundamental to science?

Atheist: Yes.

Christian: How do you know your observations are true? You see, if you believe that this universe is all there is, that we’re just matter in motion, or that we’ve evolved from the primordial goo over billions of years, then how can you truly know anything?

Atheist: I know things because other men have tested these things and we’ve all come to a consensus.

Christian: Ok, but how do you know that to be true? You have to reason in order to know what you just said. So again, how do you know your reasoning is valid?

Atheist: I don’t.

Christian: Then, according to your worldview, how can you account for right and wrong?

Atheist: I can’t.

Christian: Only the Christian worldview can give an adequate explanation for morality. The scriptures teach us that there is one true God, the Holy God, who has created this world and all in it. All humans are made in the image of God and as such God has written his law on our hearts. Humans have the capacity for knowing right and wrong simply because we’ve created in the image of God. But, a worldview that denies God cannot give adequate justification for morality.

But, please understand that the only way to truly know right and wrong, as your heart testifies, is to turn from your sin and turn to Christ.

Atheist: I am not a sinner.

Christian: According to Scripture you were born a sinner, but let me ask you, Have you ever lied?

Atheist: Yes, but that doesn’t mean I’m a sinner.

Christian: According to the scripture, it does mean you’re a sinner. The smallest sins separate us from a Holy God. Friend, if you confess your sins and repent and trust in the person and work of Christ, then you will be saved from this life of confusion and the coming wrath of God.

***Jesus can’t be the only way to God***

Atheist: There are many different religions in the world, all followed by many intelligent educated people. Isn’t it simply arrogant and narrow-minded to suggest that all of them apart from Christianity are wrong?

Christian: No, God has said very clearly, He is the only God, there is no other God. Isaiah 44:6 & 8 “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god, Is there a God besides me? 8 There is no Rock; I know not any.” .Isaiah 43:10 Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. And Jesus Christ, being God Himself, claimed to be the only way to reconciliation to the one true God. Since He is the only way, the only true God, then all other religions are wrong. Furthermore, do you believe in any of these other religions?

Atheist: No, I am not religious.

Christian: It is disingenuous of you to tell me that my view is narrow minded and arrogant when you’re pretending that other religions could be true to disprove Christianity. You’re contradicting your own belief system. As an atheist, you claim that there are no gods, yet you are temporarily assuming that other gods exist to attempt to show me that my belief system is invalid.

My friend, please see the futility of borrowing from all of these other worldviews in order to try and find meaning in our world. It is only through Jesus Christ that we can find a true foundation!

*Explanation: We are holding them on the worldview roller coaster. They are borrowing from other worldviews that they disagree with in order to try and prove the Christian wrong.*

***A good God wouldn’t send people to Hell***

Atheist: An all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving God has seemingly freely chosen to sentence many human beings to hell. Why? If your god exists, why should he be trusted?

Answer: According to my worldview there are none innocent because all have sinned against God. If your family was murdered and the judge let them go, would that man be a good judge? My worldview can account for justice, but your worldview cannot. You have no right to call anything good or bad according to your worldview. In fact, what your argument proves is that you believe in justice and a standard of morality and that you’re borrowing it but according to your worldview you cannot account for why.

The Christian worldview is the only worldview that gives justification for justice. Your sense of justice and right and wrong is because you’ve been made in the image of God. I serve a God of justice. And, because we’ve all sinned and fallen short of His standard, he will avenge himself. You must turn from your sin and trust in Christ! In doing so – not only will you be saved, but you will have a true foundation for justice.

*Explanation: The atheist cannot account for morality. Many atheists have proposed that right and wrong are simply conventions that societies decide on. If this is true, then morality is simply relative. If this is true, then any society sets the standard for what is right. The German public voted upwards of 90% to grant Hitler the power to be a dictator in Germany. The German public mostly agreed with Hitler that Jews were sub-human and race-defilers. So, does that mean that the German society at that time was morally justified because they agreed by consensus? Sure, you could make the case that the public was desensitized. But look at abortion today. It is no different. We have been desensitized to believe that it’s not actually murder, when the contrary is true.*

*According to the theory of evolution, all life is a complex chemical reaction, but we do not put vinegar in jail for reacting when mixed with baking soda. We don’t put an ape in jail for killing its young. There is no objective right or wrong according to the atheist & evolutionist. They must decide what is right in their own eyes, and that creates a problem because what they say is wrong one day may not be wrong the next day.*

*The atheist / evolutionist must borrow from the Christian worldview in order to account for their innate sense of justice.*

*Romans: 2:15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them*

***The Bible is not backed by science and is full of errors.***

Atheist: Many events in the Bible, such as the creation narrative, the flood, much Old Testament history and the Gospel accounts are not backed up by science or archaeology and much of the history is not even internally consistent. They were also written long after the events they claim to describe, they’re mostly just ‘stories’.

Christian: There are a lot of problems with your comment and I want to be clear the Christian has a vast amount of evidence that confirm what God has already spoken as truth in the scriptures. We could talk about the c14 in diamonds for example that reveal the age of the earth to be much shorter than the evolutionist view, we could talk about the flood and the way you would expect to find a global catastrophe when you find fossils of many animals all around the same time, we could talk about how the global flood could cause an extreme temperature drop causing something very much like an ice age however that would not prove Gods word to be true to you, it only confirms what God has already declared. You said that God’s word was written long after the events in them however if you applied that same standard to any of the writings from antiquity then you’d have to give up pretty much every historical account of plato and Socrates. Now, you had said that the bible isn’t consistent and I disagree but for the sake of the conversation can you tell me why that should matter according to your worldview?

Atheist: Everyone knows that inconsistencies can’t be true.

Christian: I know according to the Christian worldview that inconsistencies would matter and that they cannot be true because of the law of non-contradiction, what I am asking you is how do you know they are not true according to your worldview? Can you even have truth according to your worldview? For that matter you seem to be appealing to the majority rule that if everyone claims something (you probably mean a large group or culture) then it’s true or right. That means you’d have to say the holocaust was okay. Do you see where your worldview leads you?

*Remember, you will likely need to explain why their worldview cannot account for truth or morality or rational reasoning.*

*“The Bible teaches that God is the Creator of all things (Gen 1:1; John 1:3). All things belong to God (Ps. 24:1), and thus God has the right to make the rules. So an absolute moral code makes sense in a biblical creation worldview. But if the Bible were not true, if human beings were merely the outworking of millions of years of mindless chemical processes, then why should we hold to a universal code of behavior? Could there really be such concepts as right and wrong if evolution were true? Now, some people might say, "That’s true. Morality is just relative. There’s no such thing as absolute morality, and therefore you should not try to enforce your personal moral code on other people!" But when they say "you should not…" they are doing just what they are telling us not to do: enforcing their personal moral code on other people. If there is no absolute moral code, then nothing is actually fundamentally wrong: not lying, not stealing, not even rape or murder. And yet people cannot live consistently by such an amoral standard.”*

*Jason Lisle - The Ultimate Proof of Creation*

***It is no longer necessary to invoke God as an explanation for anything***

Atheist: Now that we have the theories of evolution and big bang / multiverse theory there is no need for a designer to explain the origin and complexity of living things or the physical universe.

Christian: According to your worldview, how do you account for morality, laws of logic and the uniformity in nature? Furthermore, your statement is arbitrary, as it assumes that these theories are fact, but they are not. In order to have a fact, you would have to know all things exhaustively or know the One who does.

Do you know all things exhaustively?

Atheist: No.

Christian: Then you can have no certain truth. But more problematically, the evolutionary worldview cannot account for the universe you do live in. Science depends on uniformity in nature. The universe is logical and orderly, it obeys mathematical laws that are consistent over time and space.

Atheist: I believe in uniformity because it has always worked in the past, so I expect it will continue to work into the future.

Christian: Whenever we use past experience as a basis for what is likely to happen in the future, we are assuming uniformity. So when you say that you believe there will be uniformity in the future since there has been uniformity in the past, you’re trying to justify uniformity by simply assuming uniformity — a vicious circular argument.

Your worldview cannot make sense of uniformity. However, the Christian worldview can. There is order in the universe because God created all things and imposed order on the universe (Gen 1:1; John 1:3). God upholds all things by His power (Heb 1:3)

**Agnosticism – explain the difference between Agnostic/Atheist**

Agnostic: The world is senseless. If there is a god and a reason behind this madness, they certainly will not be found in a book as flawed as the bible.

Christian: *There are a few different points we can address here but thinking through the don’t answer/answer strategy lets pick one and roll with it.*

You say the world is senseless and the bible is flawed. These two truths that you are claiming contradict each other. If the world is senseless then there is no purpose and flaws or errors can’t actually be called flaws at all. Remember there is no sense to anything according to your own professed world view. Let me submit to you though that if this were actually true you wouldn’t even be attempting to have a conversation with me at all because it would be senseless. You see the problem is you are claiming to believe that the world is senseless so that you can remain your own ultimate standard. The bible says you suppress the truth of God in unrighteousness. You want to be your own god therefore you’ve created a view that allows you to live the way you want. However your own actions betray your view. You are arguing with me and do believe things are flawed even though in your own view all of this is senseless. You see you can’t escape the truth that you are made in Gods image and therefore you know there is a purpose but you’re suppressing this truth so you can live how you want to live. I reject your claim that world is senseless, God said He has created everything for its purpose and He upholds the world with His power. This is why even though you claim the world is senseless you still want to interact and call things flawed which would only make sense in a world that is purposeful.

*-Now it’s highly unlikely that you will be able to say all of that in one breath. You may need to take smaller stabs and listen to their response. Let’s do that in this next interaction.*

Agnostic: In my experience, I haven’t been given enough evidence to believe in any sort of deity. But, I can’t make the definitive claim that I know that there isn’t any deity. I just don’t know.

Christian: *Let’s start with the don’t answer portion first.* “You say you don’t believe in any sort of deity, but God says you do know Him. In fact in Romans 1 he says all men know Him but they suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

Agnostic: I don’t believe the bible is correct.

Christian: “So let me ask you this then, you are depending upon your observation to interpret the world around you and your experiences and you have come to the conclusion that there’s not enough evidence to believe in any deity?”

Agnostic: Correct

Christian: “Then I must ask you how do you know you can trust your observations?” “Have your observations ever been wrong?”

Agnostic: “My observations are trustworthy because they have always served me well.”

Christian: “Now you’re begging the question, you say your observations have worked in the past so therefore you can trust them now. Have you ever felt something crawling on your leg only to find out it wasn’t there, have you ever thought you saw something and were convinced it was there only to be shown it wasn’t? When you use your observation to confirm that your observation has worked so it should in the future you are committing the logical fallacy of begging the question.”

Agnostic: “I’m not really sure what that means but if it’s proven to work then I don’t have an issue with it.”

 Christian: “If you carry that logic out I think you’ll find that it will lead to very bad consequences. Slave owners could have argued that treating human slaves as if they were less than human worked so let’s just keep doing it. However I don’t want to turn this to an emotional argument. Let me say this: If you are relying on your observations, senses, and/or feelings for truth that affects your entire life you are on very faulty ground. Unless you know all things exhaustively the very things you don’t know could prove what you think you know (like thinking your observations are trustworthy) to be wrong. Ultimately if truth in your worldview can only come from your observations, senses, and/or feelings then you truly can’t be certain of anything.”

Agnostic: “I said that at the beginning, I just don’t know. I don’t have enough evidence to believe that there is a deity.”

Christian: “So are you giving up knowledge, for clarities sake do you think you can have truth?”

Agnostic: “I don’t know if anyone can claim to have truth.”

Christian: “Is that true?”

Agnostic: “I don’t know.”

Christian: “Is it true that you don’t know? This could keep going and what I am hoping to show you is that without God you can’t be certain about anything in your life. If you continue suppressing the truth God says you know you will have to live in the futility of your mind always being uncertain and never being able to be sure about anything. The real problem though is you do know things, even though you cannot make sense of it according to your worldview you will live like you know things but you will not be able to justify the way you live in light of the worldview you profess to believe in. This is where all of us were at one point and God who knows all things and is a THE source of truth has revealed this to us. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, you suppress the truth of God in your sin and just like me you will remain there unless God grants you repentance. It doesn’t have to be that way though…” (Share the gospel!)

Agnostic: If a god did exists you would be arrogant to think you could know said god.

Christian: Now that’s a fundamental problem because God does exist and has declared that all men know him through his creation work. Now I would agree with you that we would not be able to know said god based on our limited knowledge, however don’t you think if God exists and creates us He would have the ability to communicate to us in any way He decided? This is exactly what God says in His bible in Romans 1. You see, it actually seems more arrogant to think you know what God is capable of by saying there’s no way we could know Him if He did exist.

Agnostic: Okay I’ll grant to you that God could communicate to his creation, but in the reality of our world with so many supposed gods how can you be sure you know the right one and it’s not just a coping mechanism for you? You still have the problem of arrogantly thinking you know who God is.

Christian: According to the bible all humans know that God exists, but the bible also says we can’t know God in a saving way on our own and that apart from His saving grace we would be left in sin and serve many false gods. The Bible says that God must cause us to have faith. You see I’m not being arrogant, in fact I’m happy to say apart from God’s grace and work in my life causing me to be born again, I would have never turned from sin and trusted in Him.

One more point, God has declared in the scriptures that there is no other gods. I don’t claim to believe in one of many, there are no others and my faith/belief in this truth was not my own doing it was God Himself who revealed these things to me by the work of His Holy Spirit.

My worldview is consistent, however according to your worldview you how could you say anything is arrogant? Wouldn’t there need to be some objective standard by which we could call things arrogant or prideful etc…? If you don’t know God or if He doesn’t exist then all you’re left with is human thought as a standard and left to themselves they are incapable of creating an objective standard.

Agnostic: “everyone knows what arrogance is. I don’t have to have an objective standard to claim something is arrogant.”

Christian: “It’s interesting that you are making a truth claim and a moral claim and yet you have no objective standard in your worldview to do such things. You said everyone knows what arrogance is, however you and I disagree here that knowing God is arrogant. So clearly you are wrong about everyone knowing or perhaps you meant agreeing on what is arrogant. So I want to be clear your claim that arrogance is a unanimously decided truth by humans is false, God has declared what pride is and when a man becomes arrogant. However let’s just say according to your worldview if the culture or people decide what is morally acceptable, (IE arrogant or not) then how do you deal with cultures who commit mass murder like Nazi Germany? You see if you want to hold to some sort of cultural standard then you must admit that cultures change and therefore morality or truth changes but this would make truth relative and therefore never really true in the first place. May I submit to you that you want to make these claims and you do know to an extent what arrogance is because God has said He has written His law in the heart of man so when you do the very things God commands it reveals that even though you’ve denied Him, you can’t escape that fact that He has written His law upon your heart.”

 **Mormonism**

Mormon: I know Mormonism is true because I know the Mormon Church is true and Joseph Smith is a prophet because I have had a burning in the bosom. (Appealing to personal feeling)

*D&C 9:8 8 But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.*

Christian: “If you apply that same standard to everyone else then the Muslim who said Jesus is not God and did not die on a cross but that he has prayed to god and felt a burning in his heart and that he is therefore right should reveal to you that you cannot answer this dilemma. If you would be consistent then you must admit that you have no ability to be certain about the truth you claim to have. You see if your worldview depends upon your feeling then others can make the same claims but God has said very clearly that He is the standard of truth and that His word is truth. In fact God has also said in Jeremiah 17:9 9The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Why would God who said your heart is deceitful tell you to trust your heart and that you are the one who can verify truth? Or what about Proverbs 28:26 26Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. I hope you see the very fact that the “god” of your beliefs has told you to trust some internal feeling actually reveals that the “god” of your religion is not truly God. You must see if truth is subjective then no one would be able to be certain of their own truth and this entire idea of praying and burning would benefit no one?”

Mormon: “Well you see Joseph Smith was given these revelations from god and he has told us that the bible you keep using has lost many plain and precious truths.”

Christian: “I must sincerely, out of my love for you, tell you that this is a false statement about God’s word. I reject the claim from Joseph Smith that the bible has lost these precious truths. In fact the bible itself says that any future revelation must fall in line with it to know it is indeed from God. If the bible is inaccurate or has lost truths then it would not be trustworthy at all. This is the very same problem you have with the claim that Joseph Smith was a prophet. The bible gives some very clear guidelines for prophets and false prophecies. Joseph Smith has made many false prophecies for example the prophecies of the temple being built in Missouri within the generation of the people he gave the prophecy to. So just like I would say inconsistences in the bible would make it untrue I would also say prophets who made false prophecies therefore being inconsistent are also not true. If you do not have revelation from God who knows all things or that revelation is incomplete (ie missing plain and precious truths) then you would have no objective standard for truth and we would all be left with uncertainty. You must see that when you appeal to Joseph Smith as the reason to not believe scripture to be sufficient and complete that you are appealing to a man who has historically been proven to make false prophecies amongst other things. If your worldview allows you to be inconsistent then I can simply contradict what you say as inconsistencies don’t matter and we would be unable to have any intelligent conversation. Ultimately what I long for you to see is not that you have no hope if you recognize that your beliefs are false, rather I want you to see the true hope you have in the true and living God! My most earnest desire for you is that you’d see the inconsistencies in your worldview and turn from this false belief in repentance and faith in the one true God Jesus Christ. Not a god of many gods but the Lord of Lord and the King of kings. The alpha and Omega the first and the last. God has declared before me there were no gods and after me there will be no gods. If you are trusting a god that is one of many then you are not trusting in the one true God!