



**NGIM**  
NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

**INTEGRATING FAITH AND  
REASON IN OUR WITNESS**

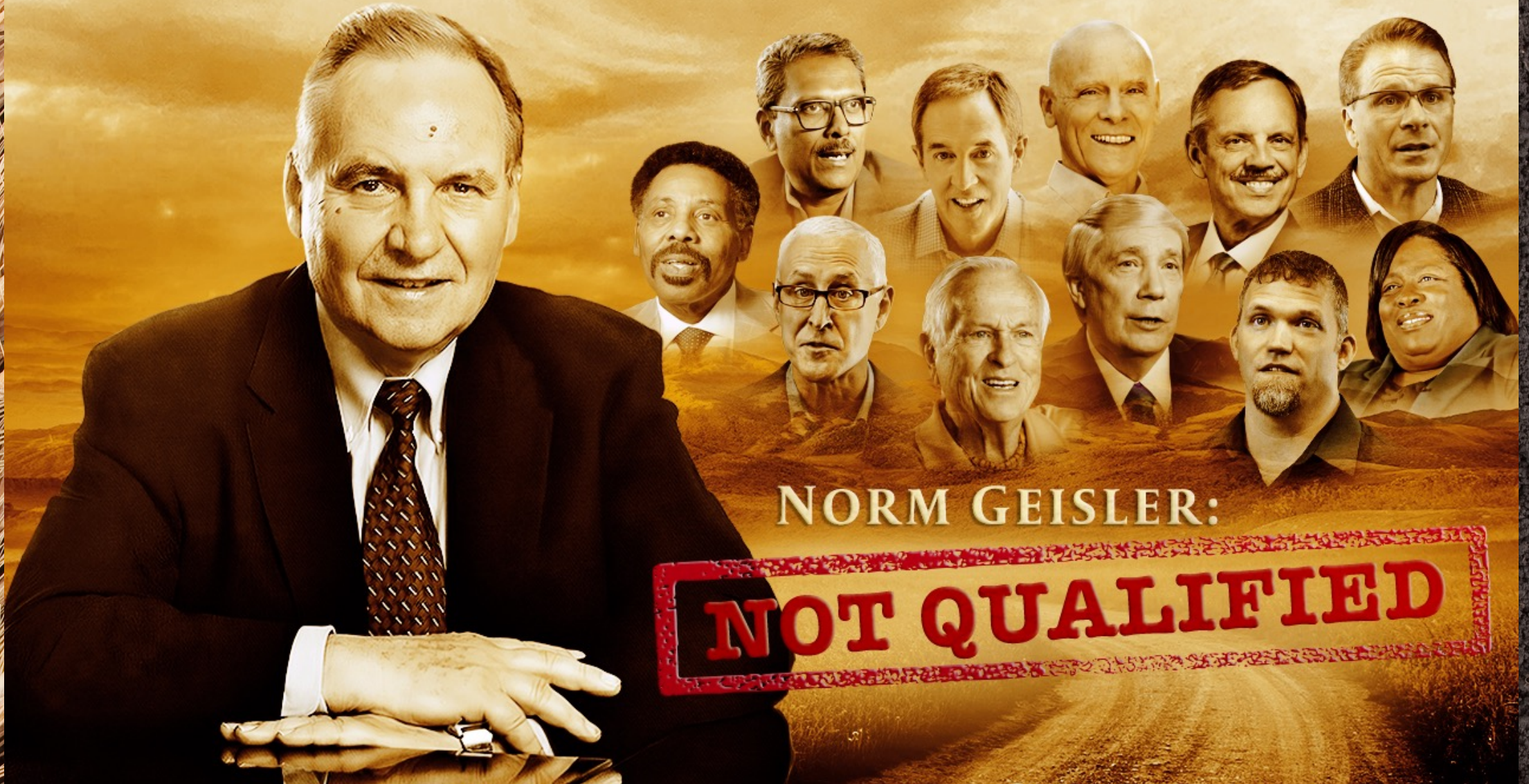
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HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

**NOT QUALIFIED**

READY FOR A

QUIZ?

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. *True or False. I can have a real personal encounter with Christ as my savior and lord and yet Jesus never actually be raised from the dead?*

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. *True or False. I can have a real personal encounter with Christ as my savior and lord and yet Jesus never actually be raised from the dead?*

*Answer: False*

# Things To Know About Our Faith



“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”

1 Cor. 15:14 ESV

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

1 Cor. 15:17 ESV



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 2. True or False. The important part of any religious belief, including Christianity, is that some one has simple faith.*

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



2. *True or False. The important part of any religious belief, including Christianity, is that some one has simple faith.*

*Answer: False*



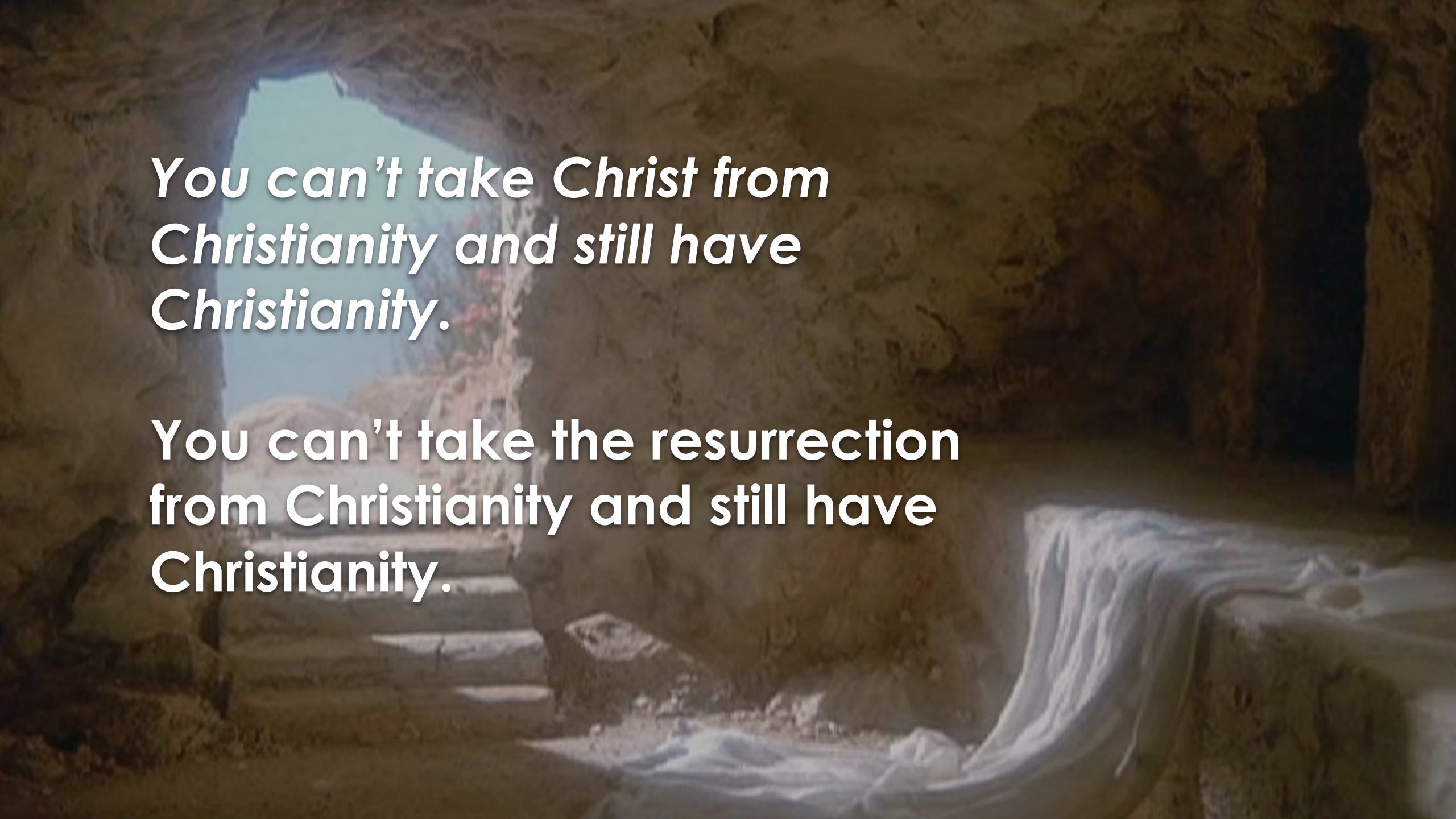
# Christianity is Based on a Historical Event



“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)

1. *Biblical faith must have an object to be valid.*

A photograph of an empty tomb, likely the tomb of Jesus. The tomb is a simple, rectangular structure made of rough-hewn stone. A white cloth is draped over the entrance, which is slightly ajar. The interior of the tomb is empty. The background shows a rocky, hilly landscape under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

***You can't take Christ from  
Christianity and still have  
Christianity.***

**You can't take the resurrection  
from Christianity and still have  
Christianity.**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 3. True or False. According to the Bible, (1 Cor. 2:14) the natural man cannot know God, so there's no point in trying to reason with them about God.*

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



3. *True or False. According to the Bible, (1 Cor. 2:14) the natural man cannot know God, so there's no point in trying to reason with them about God.*

*Answer: False*

*“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.” (1 Cor. 2:14)*

## Clarification...



Clarification:

The natural man can **perceive** some of the truth of God, but he cannot **receive** (welcome) specific truths about Christ, apart from the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word for accept or receive is “dechomai,” which means “welcome” or “embrace.” To want to receive the things of the Spirit of God is not natural for people.



# Clarification...



Clarification:

How do we know the natural man can understand some things about God?

The Bible teaches this. (Romans 1:18-19; 2:14-15). The Bible clearly says that man is without excuse because the existence of God is obvious. So, people, apart from God's special revelation, can know that He exists, but they do not welcome Jesus as Savior apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. (Jn. 6:65; 1 Cor. 12:3)

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



4. *True or False. We should always confront others with the truth of the Christian Faith no matter if they are ready to hear it or not.*

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



4. *True or False. We should always confront others with the truth of the Christian Faith no matter if they are ready to hear it or not.*

*Answer: False*

# Clarification...



Clarification:

Jesus himself didn't always tell his disciples everything he wanted to tell them.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now (Jn. 16:12).”

# Clarification...



Clarification:

You should give answers for the hope you have with a posture of meekness and fear (1 Peter. 3:15).

# Clarification...



Implications of giving answers with meekness and fear

- When we present people with the truth of the gospel (Jn. 8:32), we must be mindful of our goal: to remove the obstacle and help others take one step closer to Christ.

# Clarification...



Implications of giving answers with meekness and fear

- We could win the initial battle but lose the war and damage our testimony if we are not careful in how we speak to people about Christ.

“And the Lord's servant[a] must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, (2 Tim. 2:24-25).”

# Clarification...



Implications of giving answers with meekness and fear

- Someday we will have to give an account of our life. So we should keep that in mind when we think about how we are giving answers for the hope we have! We should specifically be mindful moment by moment of our accountability before God, so that our posture is the very best when we explain the hope that we have. We should give an answer with meekness and fear!



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



5. *True or False. As Christians engaged in our apologetic task, our responsibility is only to answer people's questions, if we are asked.*

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



5. *True or False. As Christians engaged in our apologetic task, our responsibility is only to answer people's questions, if we are asked.*

*Answer: False*

# Clarification...



Clarification:

Your apologetic responsibility involves much more than contained in 1 Peter 3:15 (See also 2 Corinthians 10:5; 1 Corinthians 9:22; Matthew 13:19-23).

Question:

When it says, “to be ready to give an answer,” what does it mean to be ready?



## Being Ready

*“Being ready is not just a matter of having the right information available, it is also an attitude of readiness and eagerness to share the truth of what we believe.”*

Norman Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics, p. 37

# Clarification...



Answer:

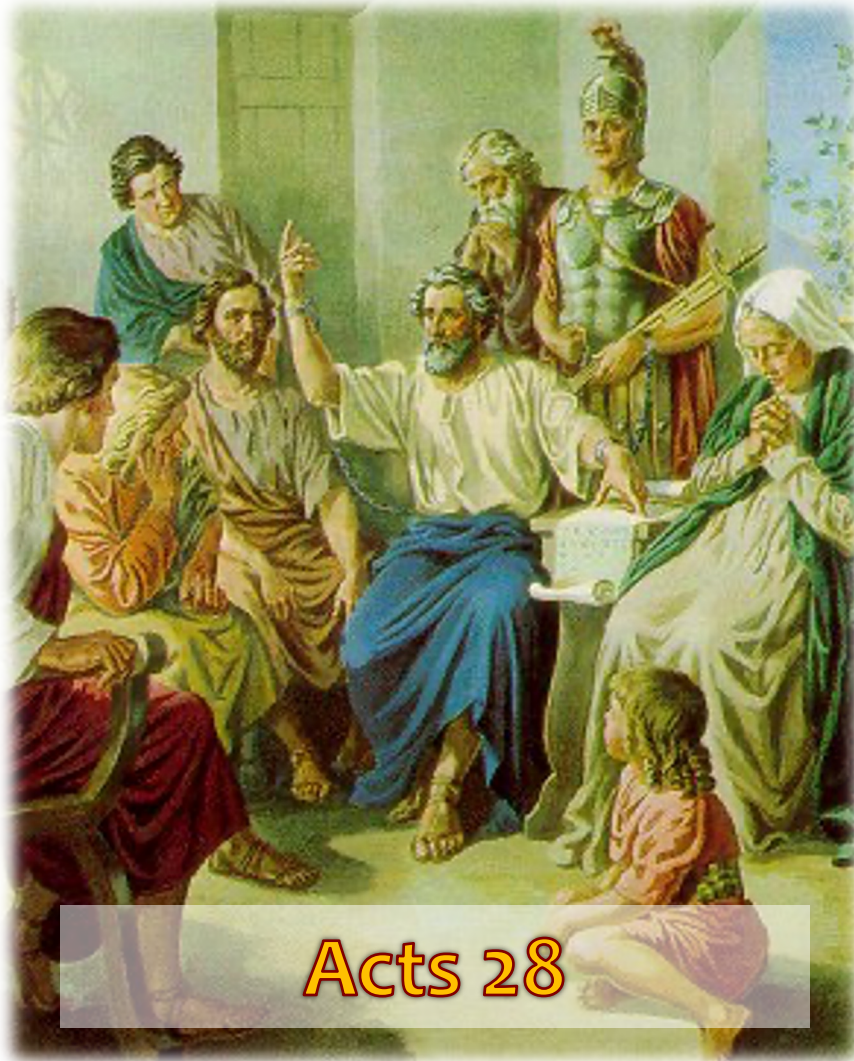
The Greek word for ready in 1 Peter 3:15 (Hetoimos) is also used in Matthew 24:44 and Luke 12:40. It means that as Christians, we need to anticipate Christ's return eagerly.



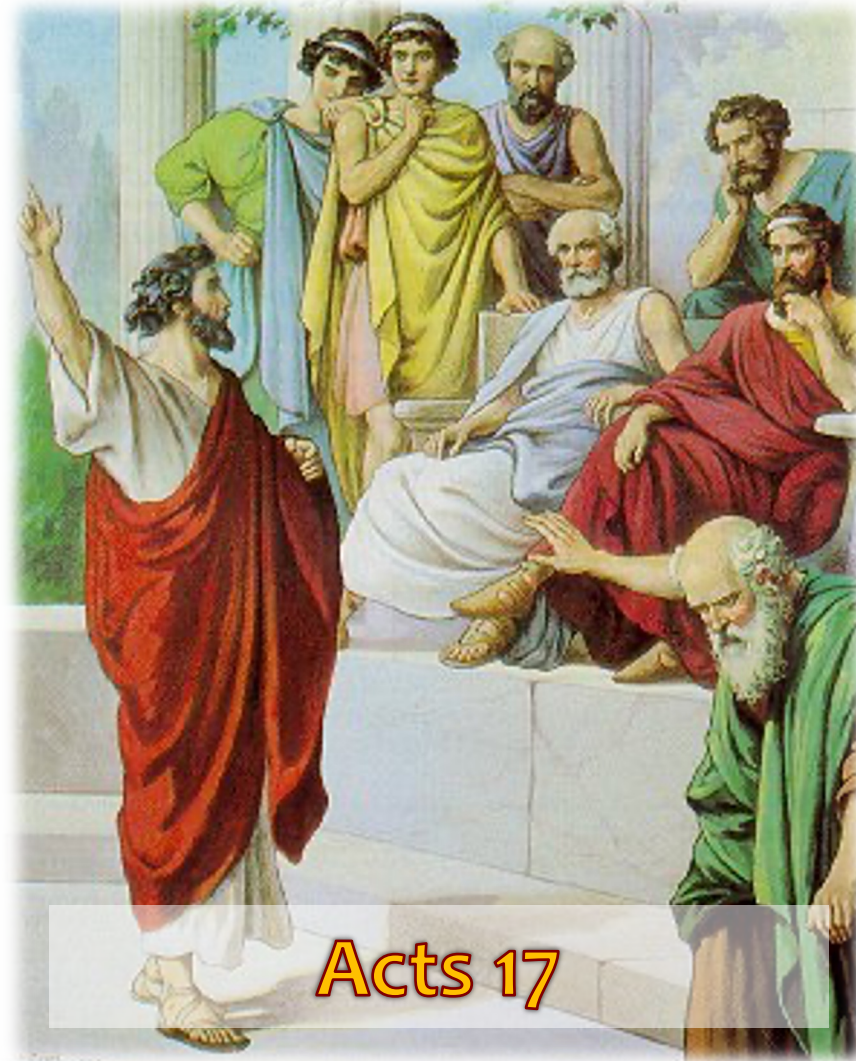
What Does It mean to “be ready” in 1 Peter 3:15?

If we combine 1 Peter 3:15 with 2 Corinthians 10:5 and I Corinthians 9:22, it is clear that our responsibility is also to eagerly anticipate the questions and objections and remove barriers whether others ask us a specific question or not!

# That Was The Apostle Paul's Practice!



Acts 28



Acts 17



# Clarification...



“Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. (Acts 17:16-17)”

- We need to do the apologetic task as stated at 1 Peter 3:15, but we should not forget the broader discussion in Matthew 13:19-23.



# The Bottom Line Concerning 1 Peter 3:15



**If we are going to be able to fulfill the imperatives of 1 Peter 3:15 in today's world, we must understand our responsibilities as being more than just giving answers if asked!**

**We must eagerly work to remove their barriers!**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



6. *True or False. People's primary barrier to faith in Christ is sometimes intellectual.*

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



6. *True or False. People's primary barrier to faith in Christ is sometimes intellectual.*

*Answer: False*

# Clarification...

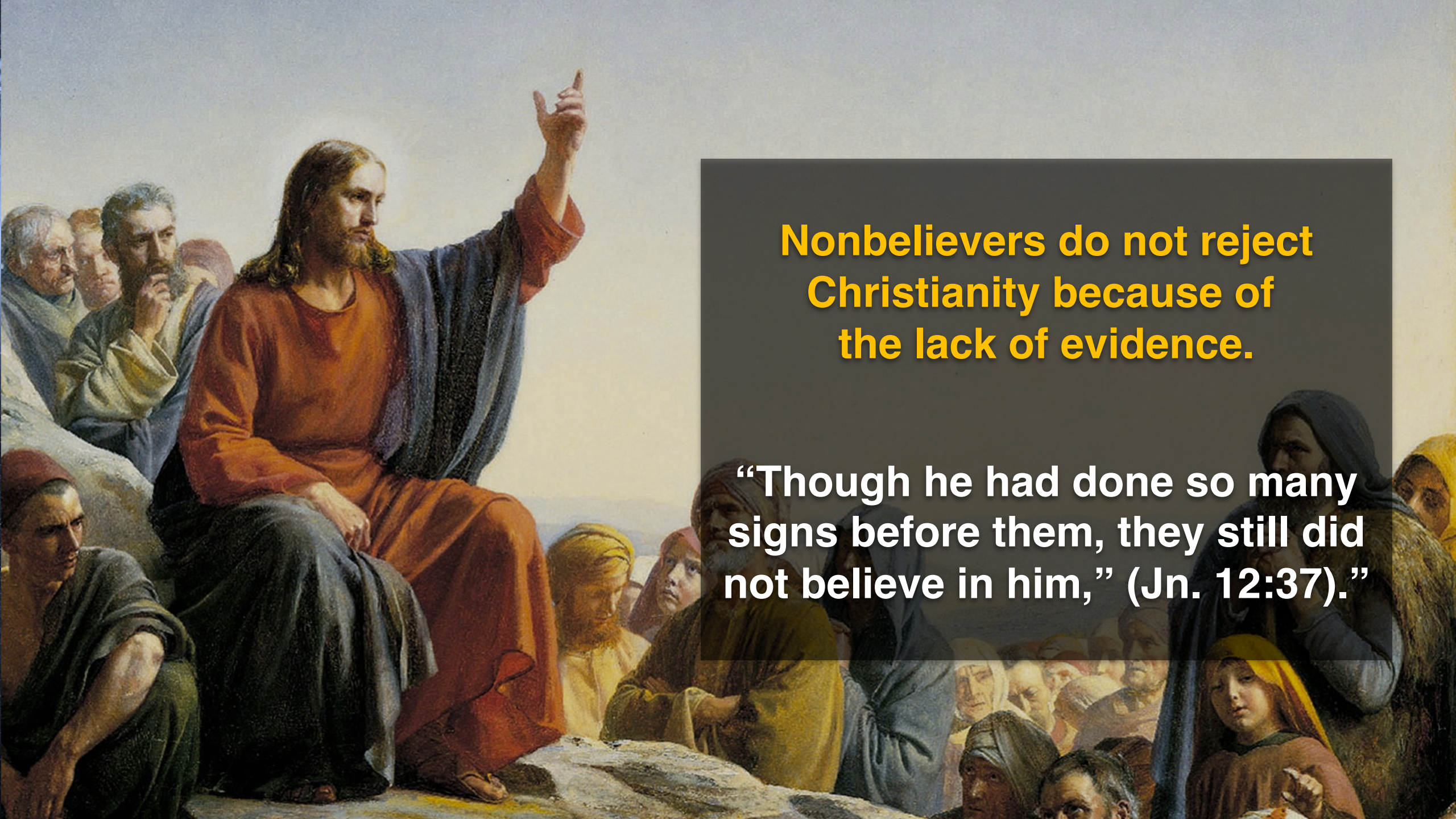


## Clarification:

- Intellectual barriers to faith are never the primary reason people reject Christ.
- The primary barrier is always volitional. (John 12:37; Rom. 1:18-20; Eph. 4:18; Jer. 17:9).

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved button-down shirt. The background is a window with a grid pattern, through which bright light is streaming, creating a warm, golden glow. A dark horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

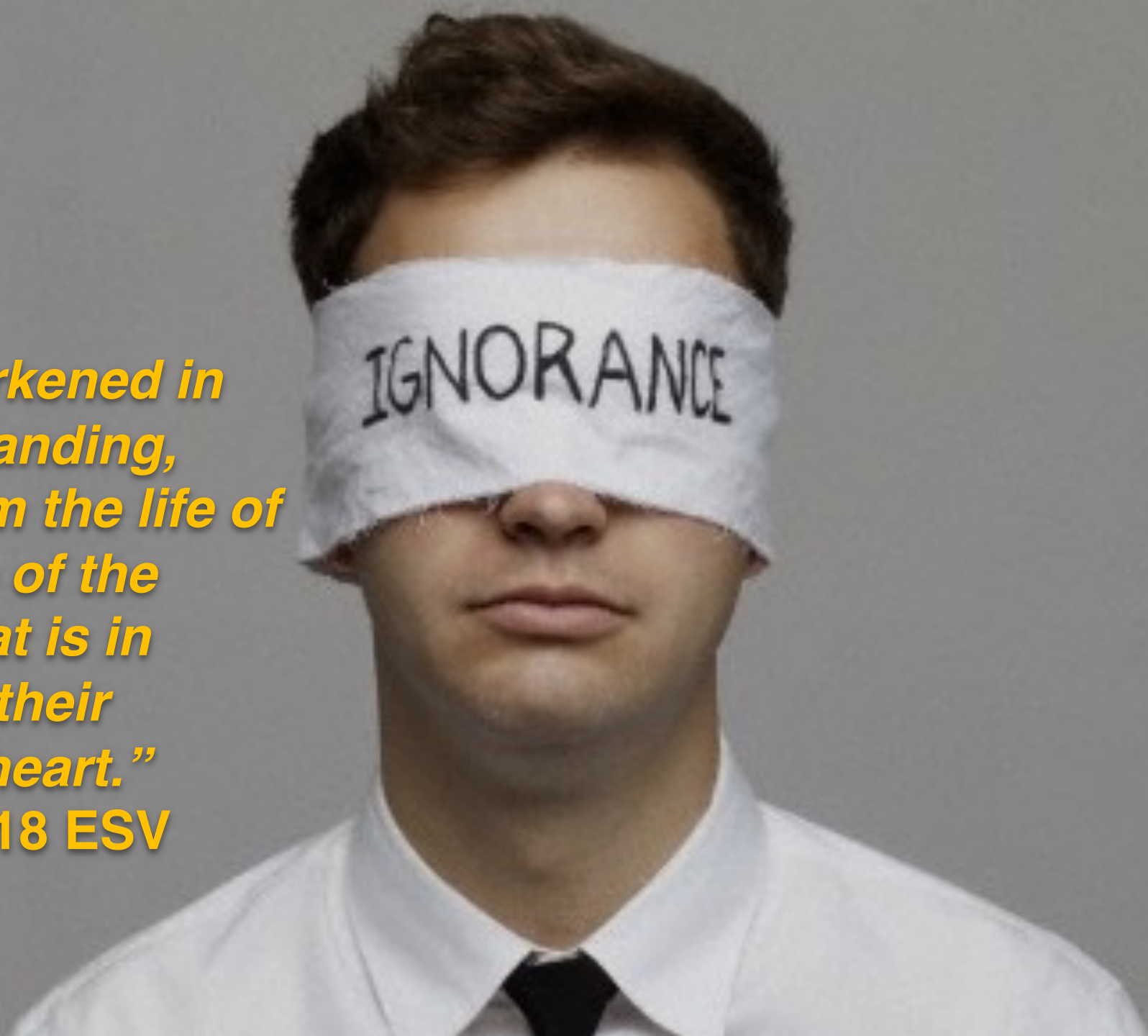
**The Bible clearly teaches this!**



**Nonbelievers do not reject  
Christianity because of  
the lack of evidence.**

**“Though he had done so many  
signs before them, they still did  
not believe in him,” (Jn. 12:37).”**

***“They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.”  
Ephesians 4:18 ESV***



A photograph of two men in business attire. The man on the left is speaking and gesturing with his hands, while the man on the right is listening intently. The background is plain white.

## Biblical Perspective

**“The natural person does not accept (welcome) the things of the Spirit of God,...” 1 Cor. 2:14**

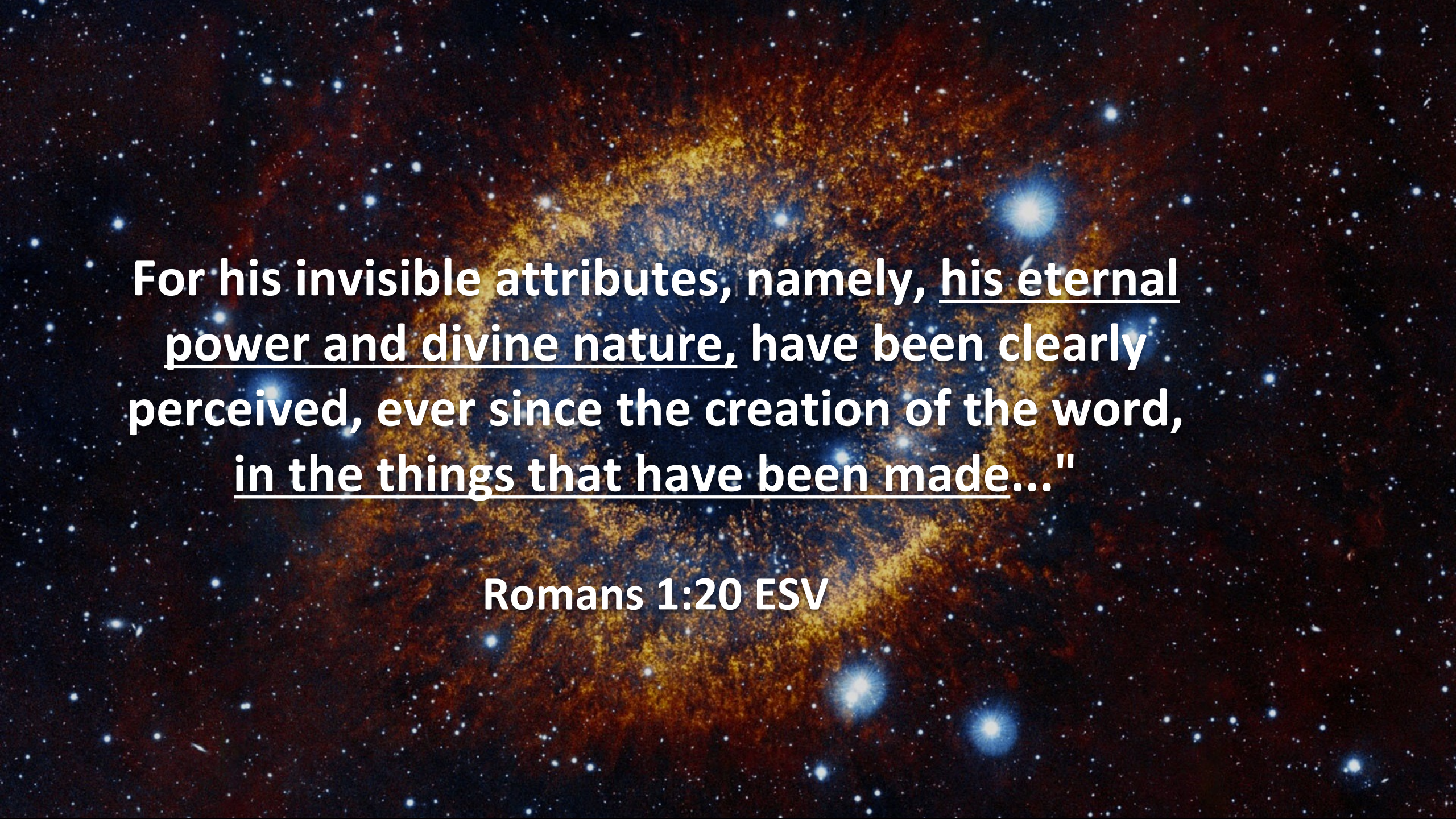




**Everyone already has  
some knowledge about God.**

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

**Romans 1:19 ESV**



**For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made..."**

**Romans 1:20 ESV**



No matter how  
much they  
protest...their  
biggest barrier to  
Christ is never  
intellectual!

A photograph of two men in business attire. The man on the left is wearing a white shirt and a patterned tie, and is speaking with his mouth open and hands raised in a gesture of emphasis. The man on the right is wearing a light purple shirt and a dark tie, and is looking down with a serious expression. The background is plain white.

**Implications of this truth!**

**Our goal should not be to win the argument!**

## What is the goal of Using Apologetics in Evangelism?

*“To remove the obstacle so that we can help others take one step closer to Jesus Christ every day!”*

**Dr. David Geisler**



# IMPLICATION



- Don't be so quick to give people answers to every question. Overwhelming them with information is not always helpful.
- We should be more strategic in how we go about using intellectual evidence for the truth of the Christian faith when we witness to others.



## Implications of This Truth

**We should remind them that even after they get the evidence they were looking for, taking steps to the Cross may not be as easy as they think!**

# CLARIFICATION



**A question you may want to ask a harden skeptic:**

*“You mean to tell me if right now I could give you an answer to your question...you would repent...turn around 180 degrees and invite Christ to come into your life...and ask Him to take control of your life from this day forward?”*



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



7. True or False. *There is no real connection in scripture between apologetics and evangelism.*

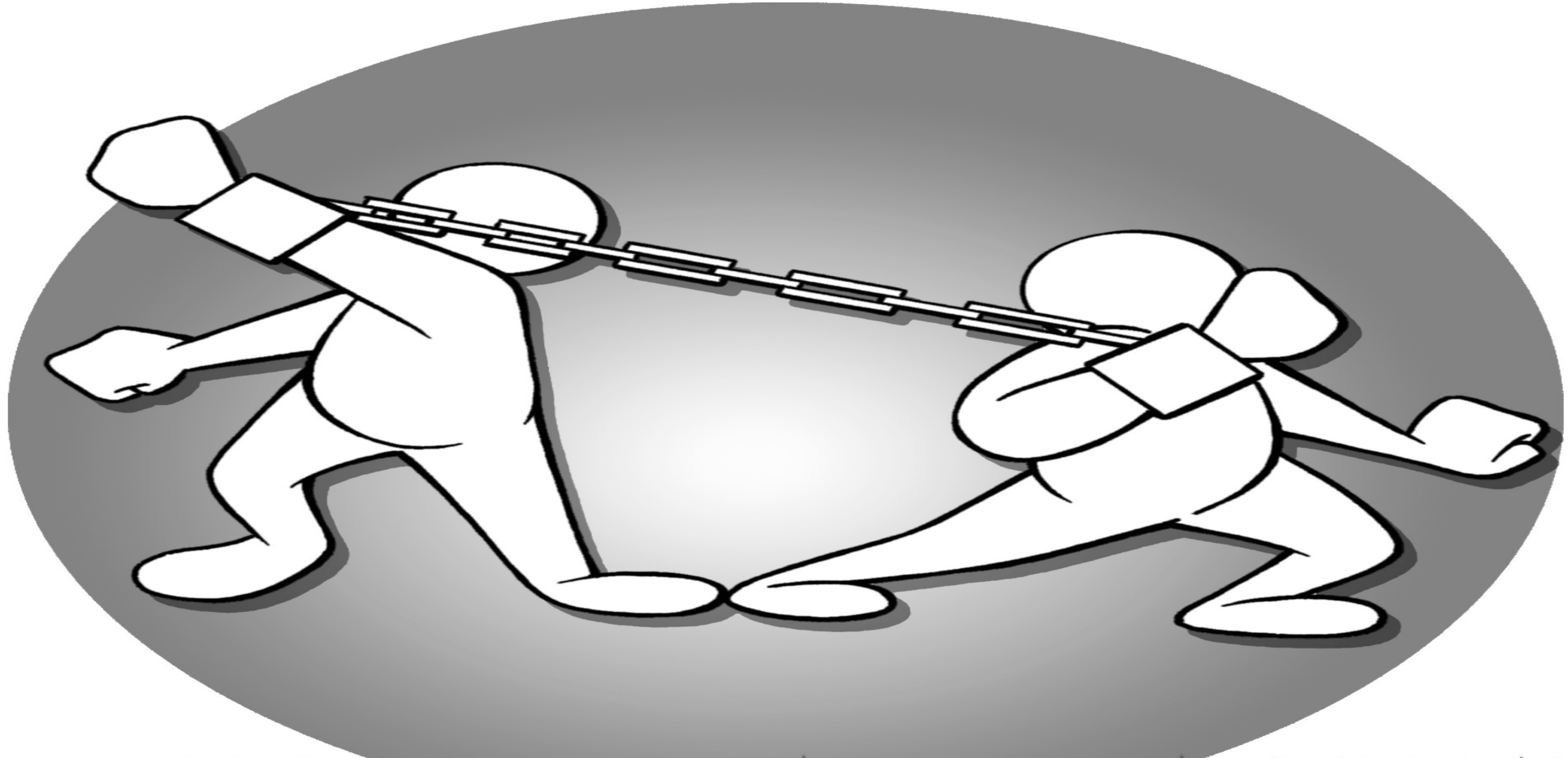
# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



7. True or False. *There is no real connection in scripture between apologetics and evangelism.*

*Answer: False*

APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM  
GO HAND IN HAND



APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM



Remember that Christian evidence normally accompanied the presentation of the Gospel in the New Testament:

Matthew 4:23; John 5:36, 10:37-38, 20:30-31;  
Acts 9:22, 14:1, 17:2-3, 26:28-29, 28:23.

# Clarification...



## Clarification:

- Apologetics and evangelism go hand-in-hand in the New Testament.
- Christian evidence normally accompanied the presentation of the gospel in the New Testament. (Matthew 4:23; John 5:36, 10:37-38, 20:30-31; Acts 9:22, 14:1, 17:2-3, 26:28-29, 28:23).
- **While there is a distinction between apologetics and evangelism, there should never be a complete separation.**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 8. True or False. Christianity is a system of truth, with no error in major doctrines. All other religions in the world are a system of error that contain some pockets of minor truths.*

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



8. *True or False. Christianity is a system of truth, with no error in major doctrines. All other religions in the world are a system of error that contain some pockets of minor truths.*

*Answer: True*

# Clarification...



Clarification:

Christianity is a system of truth in the big picture, but with no errors in essential matters (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5).

All other religious beliefs are a system of error with occasional truths.



## Clarification...



### Clarification:

Christians do differ in minor areas of doctrine but not essential doctrines. For example, not all Christians have the same understanding of the gifts of the Spirit. Also, not all Christians have the same interpretation of reconciling God's sovereignty and man's choice.

# Clarification...



Clarification:

So, some Christians have minor disagreements, which means they can't be all right on all these secondary issues. Some of these views on the non-essentials have to be wrong. But all people rightly called Christians do agree on the essentials of the faith. It is also true that most religions contain some truths. Most religions, for example, teach that we should be loving and kind to one another. Many religions teach some form of the golden rule.

# Clarification...



Clarification:

So there is some truth with which we Christians agree with in almost all religions. But religions other than Christianity don't teach that Jesus is the only way to God. Indeed, some teach Jesus is one of the ways, but certainly not the only way.

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 9. True or False. In better understanding our faith, we need to remember that God's truth goes beyond reason but never against reason.**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



9. **True or False. In better understanding our faith, we need to remember that God's truth goes beyond reason but never against reason.**

**Answer: True**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**“As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been  
Yes and No.”**

**2 Cor. 1:18 ESV**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**“He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”**

**Titus 1:9 ESV**

# Clarification...

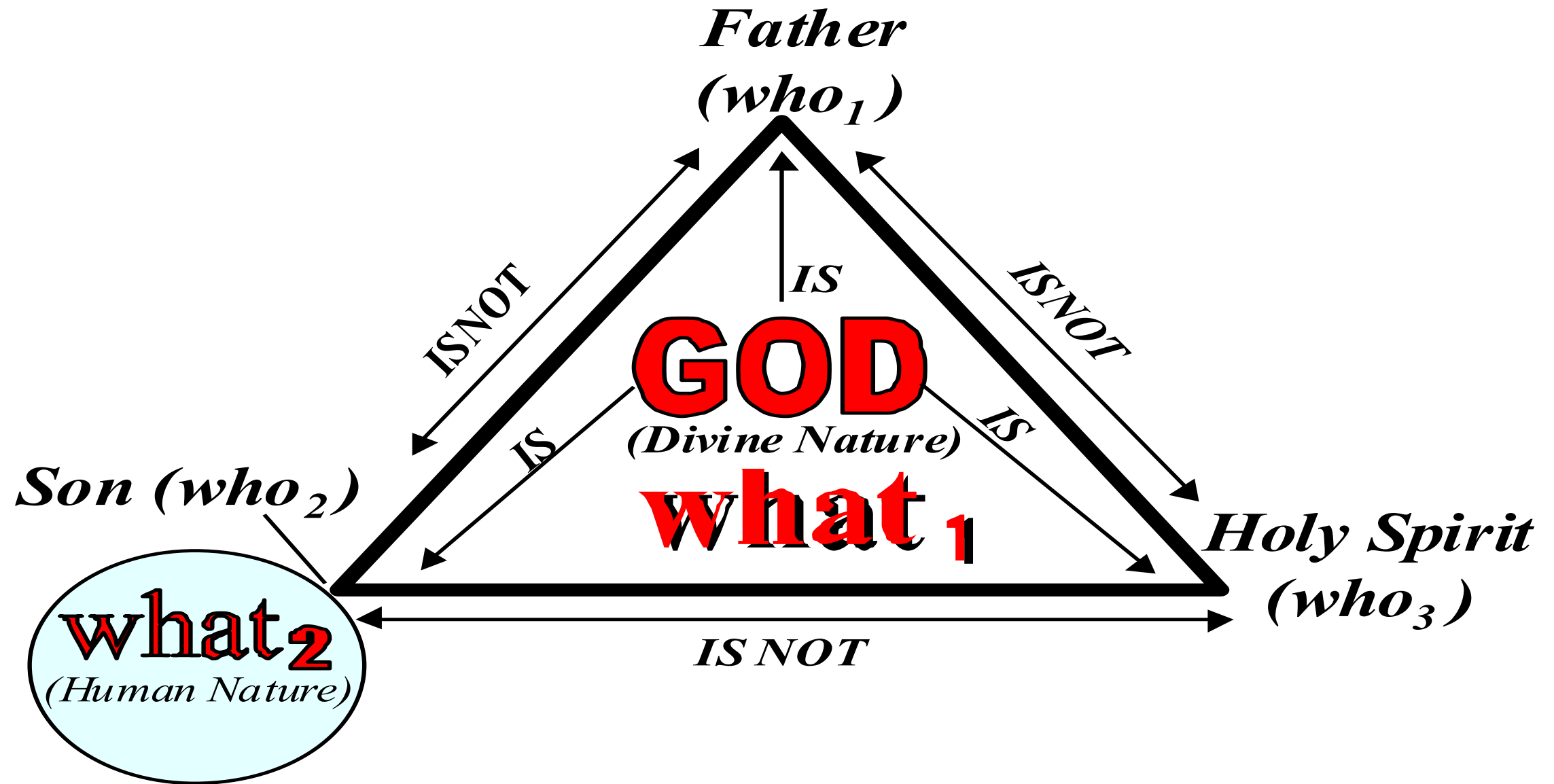


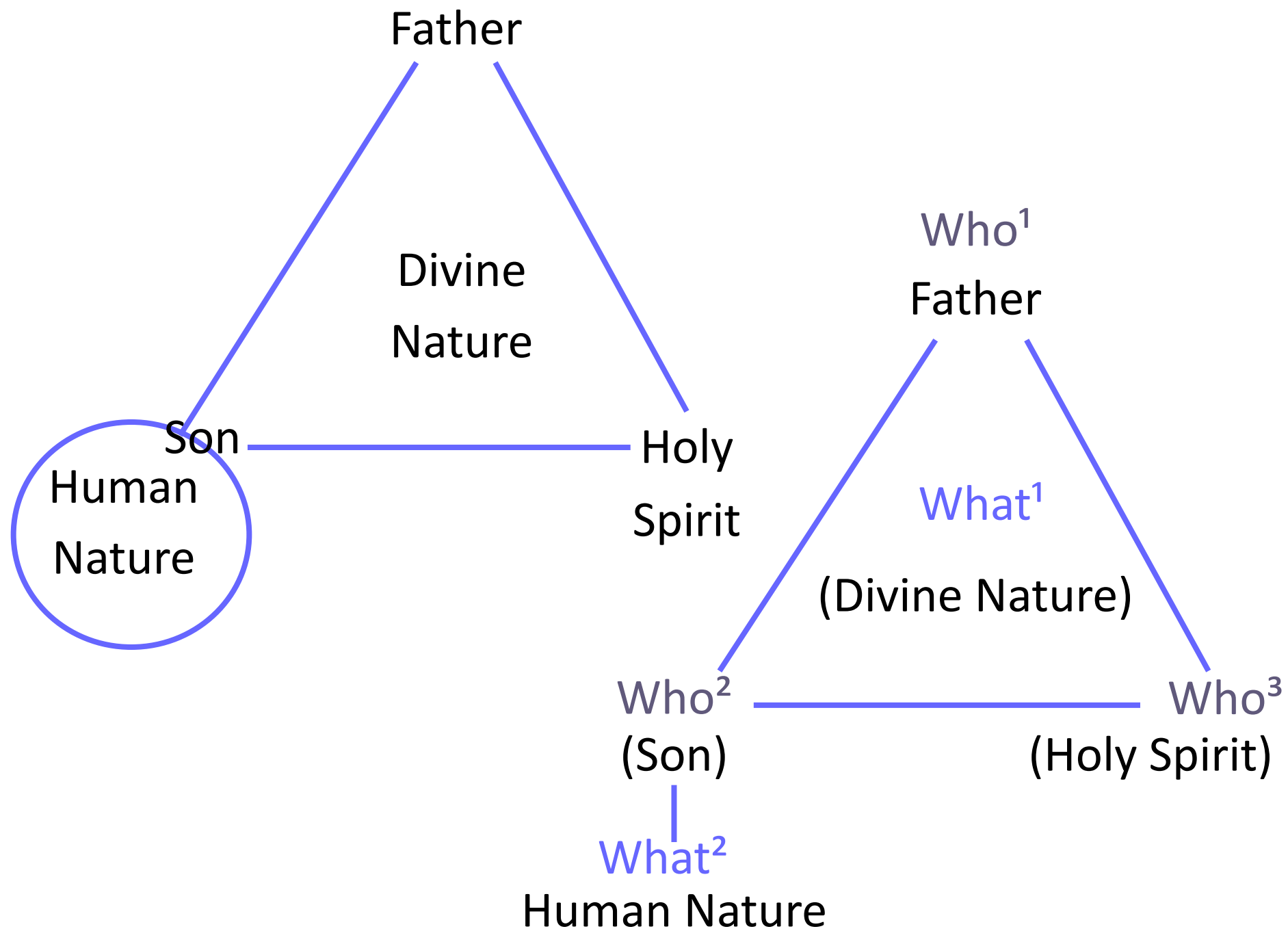
## Clarification:

Example: Trinity, the Christian belief that God exists eternally as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To say that God is three persons in one person would be a contradiction. To say that God has three natures in one nature is a contradiction. But it is not a contradiction to say that God is three persons in one nature or essence. God is three “who”s in one divine “what.”



# The God of The Bible - One What & Three Whos







**10. True or False. Our Faith goes deeper than knowing things about God!**



**10. True or False. Our Faith goes deeper than knowing things about God!**

**Answer: True**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



“that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,”

Phil. 3:10 ESV

# The Role That Evidence Can Play!

"Let's say you're going to the office to see if your boss is in. You see his car in the parking lot. You ask the secretary if he's in, and she says, 'Yes, I just spoke with him.'

You see light from under his office door. You listen and hear his voice on the telephone. On the basis of all this evidence, you have good grounds for concluding that your boss is in his office."

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith*, p.85



## The Role (continued)

“But you could do something quite different. You could go to the door and knock on it and meet the boss face to face. At that point, the evidence of the car in the parking lot, the secretary’s testimony, the light under the door, the voice on the telephone—all of that would still be valid, but it would take a secondary role, because now you’ve met the boss face to face.”

And in the same way, when we’ve met God, so to speak, face-to-face, all of the arguments and evidence for his existence—though still perfectly valid—take a secondary role.”

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith*, p.85



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 11. For those who accepted Christ as Savior at an early age of 7, how can they know that their experience of Christ was “The Truth” and not just “their truth,” if at that age they never looked at the evidence for Christianity from science or philosophy or history? Give a scripture verse to support your answer.*

*Answer:*



# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



We know that the Holy Spirit assures us as followers of Christ that we have a relationship with God, even if we are only 7 years old.

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...”

Romans 8:16 ESV

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



We also know the Holy Spirit's role is to convicts the world of sin.

“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me:”

Jn. 16:8-9

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



We also know that God has inscribed a desire for eternity in our hearts.

“...also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” (Ecl. 3:11)

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**Bottom Line:**

**Our subjective experience of Christ is only valid if it corresponds to an objective truth. (Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 15:17; Rom. 1:18-20; 1 Cor. 15:3-6).**

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 12. Explain how Faith and Reason can be compatible. Use Scripture to back up statement.*

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



## Clarification:

- There's a proper way to understand the relationship between faith and reason.
- It starts with understanding the distinction the Bible makes between a belief that and a belief in. (James 2:19)

James 2:19 says that the Demons “believe that” God does exist but do not “believe in” Him.

# Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



**When I married my wife...**

# What Part Does Reason Play in Someone Coming to Faith in Christ?



Apologetics bears on the Question of  
“Belief That” not “Belief In.”

Apologetics metaphorically can make the horse  
come to the water, but only the Spirit of God can  
help it to drink! (See John 6:65).



# Implications of This Truth



- You can't use apologetics to argue someone into the kingdom!

“He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’” (Luke 16:31 ESV)

## Implications of This Truth



**\* You shouldn't give up using apologetics in your witness to others!**

“Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.”

(Acts 14:1 ESV)

# Implications of This Truth



**When you witness to someone you, should make sure they understanding that they have to make two decisions concerning Jesus.**

**One decision involves reason. The other decision involves a step of Faith.**

## Implications of This Truth



You need more than objective evidence to win someone to Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4).

23 When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. (Acts 28:24)

# Implications of This Truth



## Question:

- What is that something else that you need?

## Answer:

The ministry of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 6:65; 1 Cor. 12:3).

<sup>65</sup> And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” (Jn. 6:65)

# Implications of This Truth



## Implications:

- You need to keep a balanced perspective, using your persuasive words yet relying on the Holy Spirit (Acts 14:1).

# What is Biblical Faith?

“Trusting in what I have good reason to believe is true, even if the evidence is not exhaustive or fully evident.”

Dr. David Geisler

# Clarification...



Clarification:

- So rather than being a leap of faith, Christianity is a step of faith! It is a step of faith into the light—the light of sufficient evidence. But it is certainly not a leap of faith into darkness! Consider the following illustration:



# Elevator Illustration



“A person wants to ascend to the top of a building. He pushes the button and two elevator doors open. The interior of the first is so totally dark that you cannot even see the floor clearly, and no one gets off it. The second is well lit, and a large man emerges from it. Which is the safer elevator? Which one provides you with the best evidence that it can get you to the top floor safely? True, it still takes a step of faith to get into the second one. But it is a step of faith in the light of good evidence. The other is a leap of faith in the dark. Christianity is like the second elevator.” *Conversational Evangelism*, p. 161

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

**NOT QUALIFIED**

**Norm Geisler discovered early in his spiritual journey:**

- 1. That faith and reason are more compatible than some Christians realize.**
- 2. That there is an appropriate way to use apologetics (Christian evidence) in our witness to others and yet in partnership with the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. We have more common ground in witnessing to non-believers than they realize.**



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