

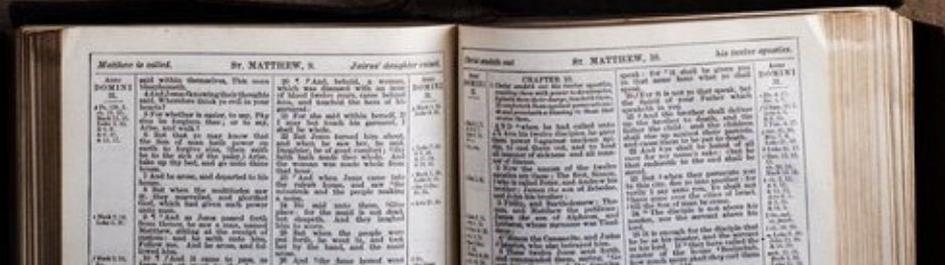
12 Points That Show Christianity Is True

By Dr. David Geisler



Truth Exist and The Opposite of True Is False

By Dr. David Geisler





Our
Walk and
Witness

**EVANGELISM
APOLOGETICS
DISCIPLESHIP**

THEY'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER

Discipleship

Apologetics

Evangelism

NGIM



What is a Certain Kind of Evangelism...?

1. One that uses an approach that is more conversational.
 2. One that seeks to build spiritual bridge to your unbelieving friends from the standpoint of their interest not your own.
 3. One that allows others to discover the truth for themselves by asking thought-provoking questions about what they say they believe.
 4. One that remembers the Three D's of Conversational Evangelism.
- 



What is a Certain Kind of Discipleship...?

1. One that understands that discipleship should be fundamental and not supplemental.
 2. One that understands that mandate should precede the mission.
 3. One that understands that the key to abiding in Christ is acknowledging and mourning our spiritual poverty!
- 



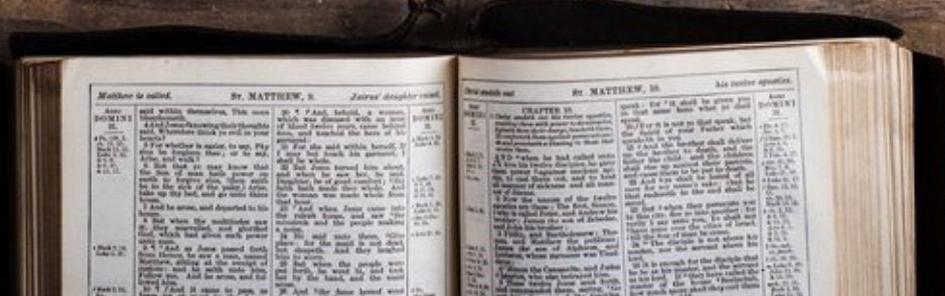
What is a Certain Kind of Apologetics...?

1. One that understands the importance of "being ready."
 2. One that compels us to use a "lite" approach in our first encounter with skeptics.
 3. One that models a two-step approach.
 4. One that is selective in using an apologetic approach while being sensitive the work of the Holy Spirit.
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12 Points That Show Christianity Is True

1. Truth Exists
2. The opposite of true is false

By Dr. David Geisler



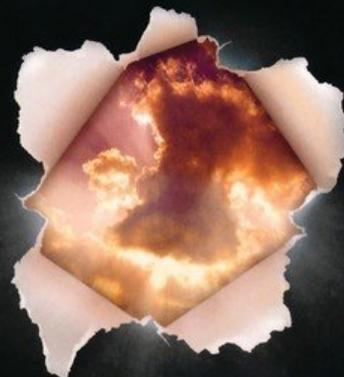
TWELVE
POINTS
THAT
SHOW
CHRISTIANITY
IS TRUE

A HANDBOOK ON DEFENDING
THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

NORMAN L. GEISLER

Foreword by David Limbaugh

I Don't Have Enough
FAITH
to Be an
ATHEIST



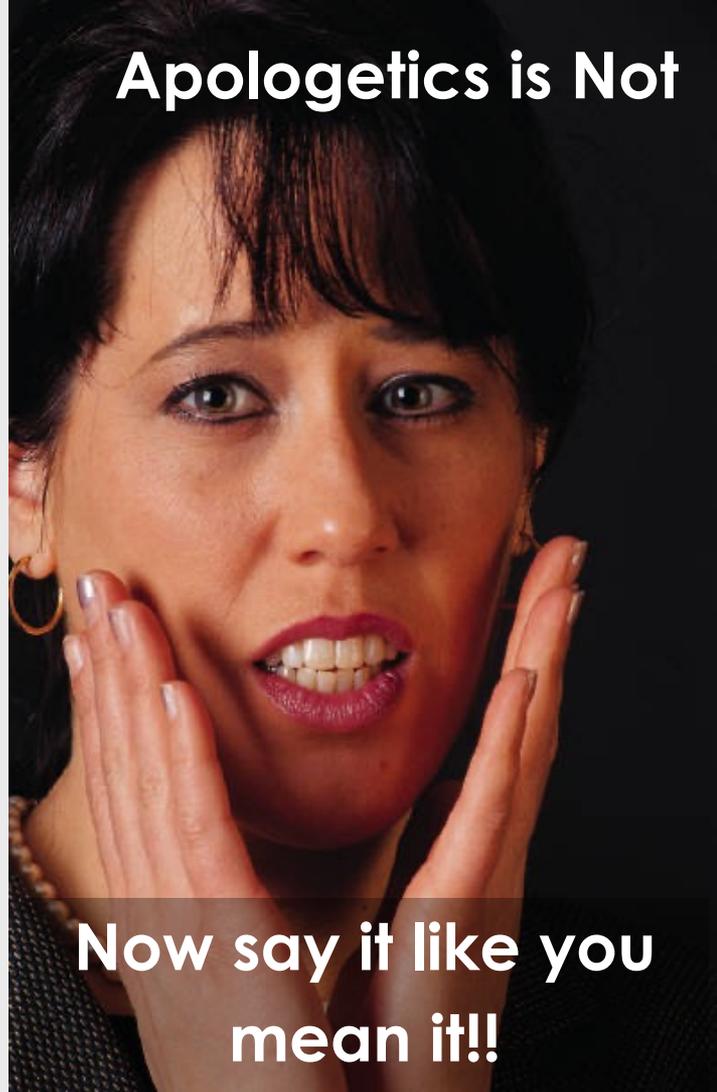
Norman L. Geisler
Frank Turek

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

“... always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the **hope** that is in you; yet it with gentleness and **respect**...”



Apologetics is Not the Art of Apologizing!



**Now say it like you
mean it!!**



**I'm sorry!!
I'm really sorry!!**

Apologia (noun) or Apologeomai (verb) is used 18 times in the New Testament

Luke 12:11 (Verb)	Rom. 2:15 (Verb)
Luke 21:14 (Verb)	1Cor. 9:3 (Noun)
Acts 19:33 (Verb)	2 Cor. 7:11 (Noun)
Acts 22:1 (Noun)	2 Cor. 12:19 (Verb)
Acts 24:10 (Verb)	Php. 1:7 (Noun)
Acts 25:8 (verb), 16 (Noun)	Php. 1:16 (Noun)
Acts 26:1 (Verb), 2 (Verb)	2 Tim. 4:16 (Noun)
Acts 26:24 (Verb)	1 Peter 3:15 (Noun)





The Noun form (Apologia) according to Vines Expository Dictionary of the N.T. signifies a “a verbal defense.” (Vines, p. 61)

The verb form (Apologeomai) according to Vines Expository Dictionary of the N.T. literally means to “talk oneself off from or to answer by way of making a defense for oneself.” (Vines, p. 61)



Apologetics is...

“Apologetics is the discipline that deals with a rational defense of Christian faith.”

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



To remove the obstacles...

We are destroying speculation and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.

Our job is to remove the obstacles...

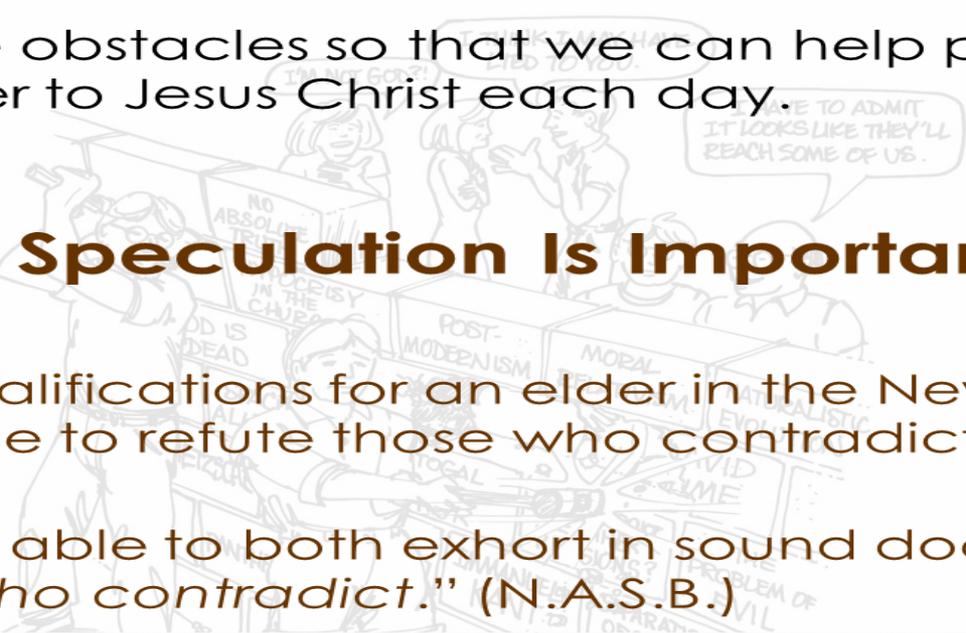
To remove the obstacles so that we can help people take one step closer to Jesus Christ each day.

(1 Cor. 3:6)

Removing Speculation Is Important in Scripture?

One of the qualifications for an elder in the New Testament is that he be able to refute those who contradict themselves (Titus 1:9)

“...he may be able to both exhort in sound doctrine and *refute those who contradict.*” (N.A.S.B.)



Remember the Goal in Using Apologetics in Evangelism!

To remove the obstacles so that we can help people take one step closer to Jesus Christ each day.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6



BUILDING A BRIDGE USING THE FIVE PLANKS

1. "I am accountable."
2. "I cannot measure up."
3. "I am a sinner."
4. "I need an outside source for help."
5. "I need what only Jesus can give."

12 Points That Show Christianity Is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. **It is true that the theistic God exists.**
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

*See **Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True** by **Dr. Norman Geisler**
(This can be ordered on Amazon)*

Why Memorize The Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True?

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
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The Importance of Memorizing Logical Progression of Points

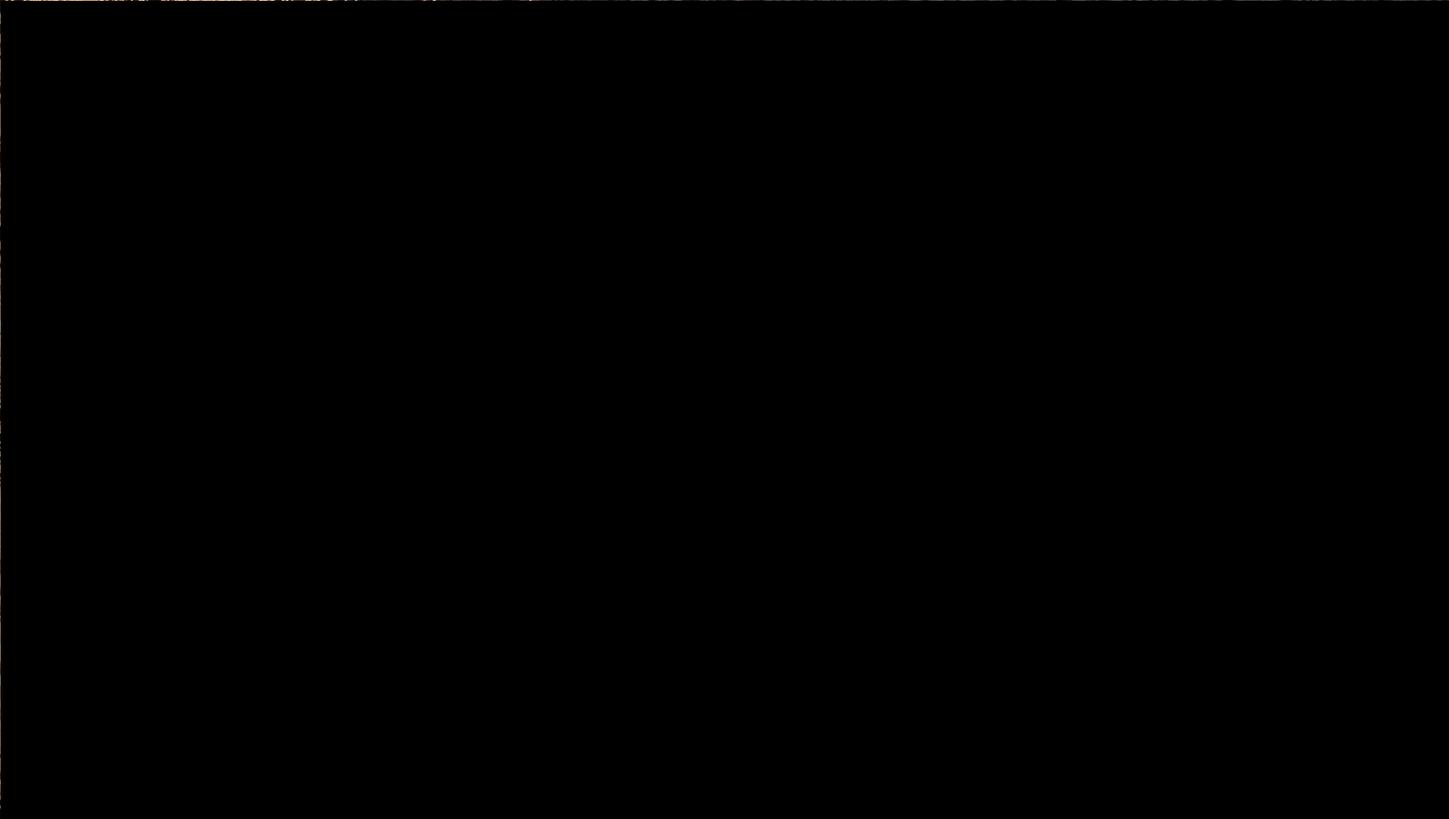
“The main difficulty I had in applying the conversational approach in the three encounters was in effectively linking one question or argument to the next, to lead the person to a clear conclusion. I often felt somewhat muddled in the conversation.

I realize I need to focus on understanding and remembering a logical progression of points so that I can help someone to see and understand for himself.”

Former student at East Asia School of Theology



MY DAUGHTER RACHEL AT AGE 10



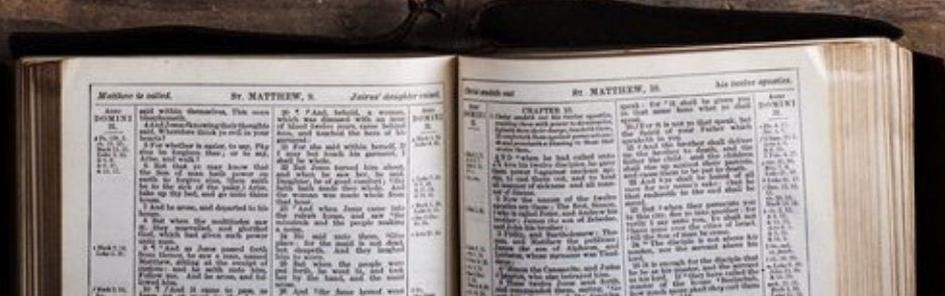
Questions In Need Of An Answer

WHY are you a Christian?

WHY are you a believer / atheist / agnostic?

WHAT are your reasons for being a Christian?

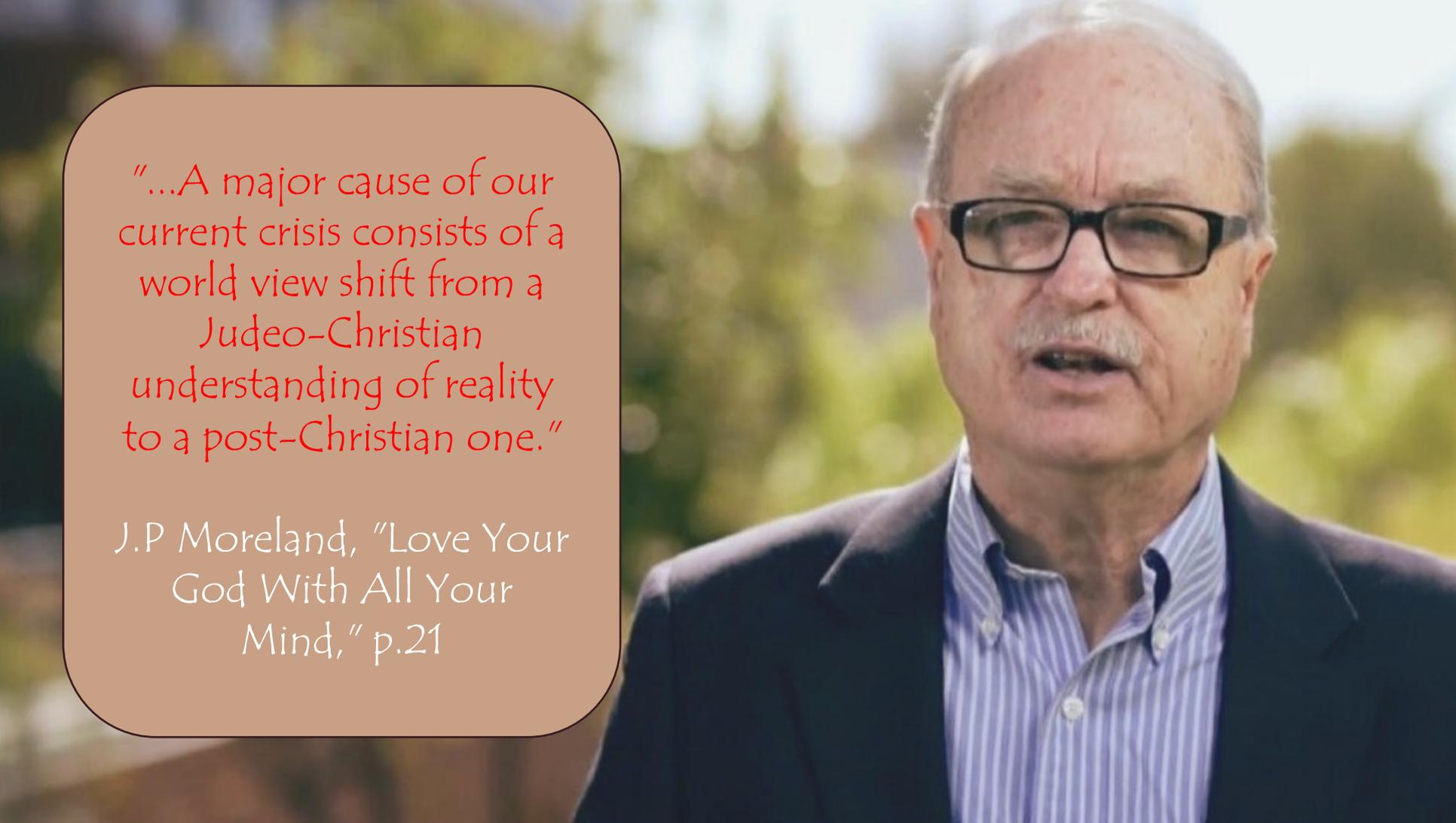
WHY should anyone believe anything at all?



Why Is It Important To Give Answers?

Our CULTURE has changed.



A man with glasses and a mustache is speaking outdoors. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue and white striped shirt. The background is a blurred green landscape.

“...A major cause of our current crisis consists of a world view shift from a Judeo-Christian understanding of reality to a post-Christian one.”

J.P Moreland, “Love Your God With All Your Mind,” p.21

Historical Development of Western World Views

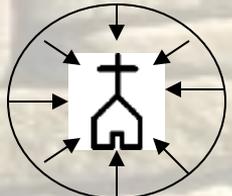
Changing Beliefs - Pluralism



Pre-modern

THEISM

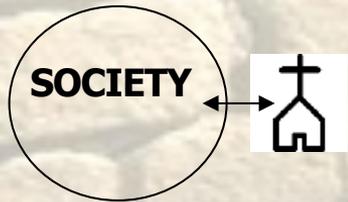
Theism → Deism



Modern

ATHEISM

Naturalism → Nihilism → Existentialism

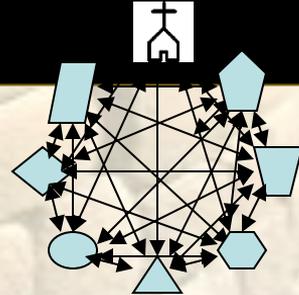


Postmodern

PLURALISM

Fill in the blank

Postmodernism
Weak Theism
New Age:
Pantheism,
Monism
Bottom line: "What works for you."



Why Is It Important...?

Our CULTURE has changed.

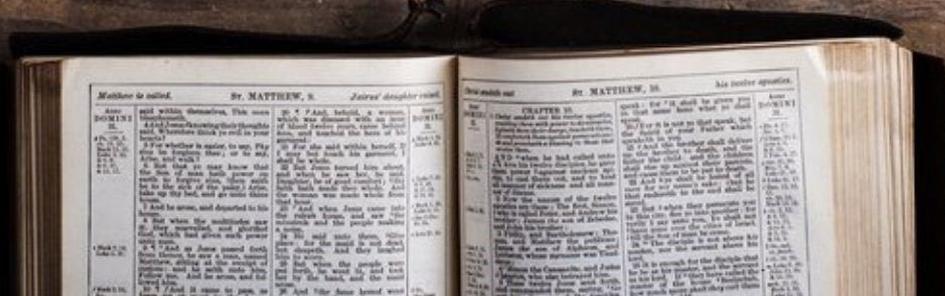
We are commanded to give...Hope...



Why Is It Important...?

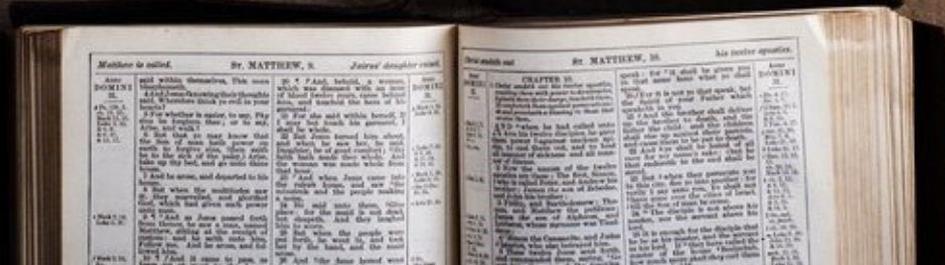
Some need CREDIBLY answer

1. Is Christianity true?
2. What's the evidence?



Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”



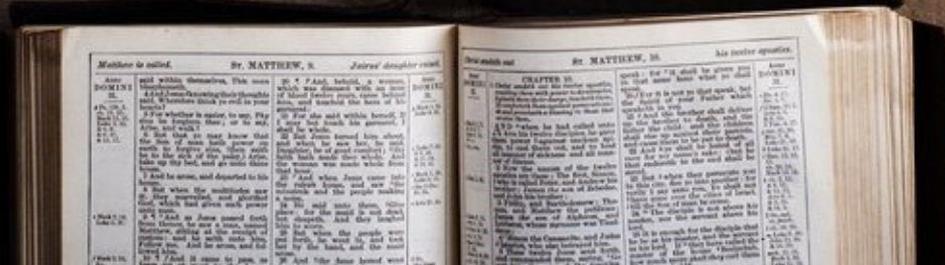
Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

“....He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”



Rom. 8:16 (ESV)

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



“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 1 Cor. 15:3-6 (ESV)

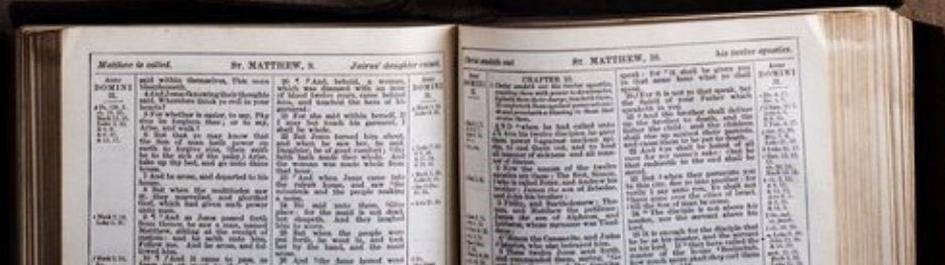
10 Challenges To Christianity

1. Real truth does not exist. 'Truth' is just truth to you.
2. God does not exist.
3. If God exists, he isn't necessarily the God of the Bible.
4. Miracles don't happen and are unscientific.



10 Challenges To Christianity

5. The New Testament's many errors make it unreliable. It's a collection of myths and legends.
6. Jesus never claimed to be God.
7. Jesus didn't prove He is God.



10 Challenges To Christianity

8. Jesus did not rise from the dead.

9. The Bible isn't the only true religious book.

10. Christianity is too narrow. There are many ways to God besides Jesus.



Why Are You a Christian?

- Key Term: "Apologetics"
- Why Is It Important To Give Answers?
- 10 Challenges to Christianity
- How Should We Respond To These Challenges?



Why Are You a Christian?

MOST REASONABLE CONCLUSION
CHRISTIANITY IS THE ONLY TRUE RELIGION

JESUS THE THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY TRUE HOLY WORD

JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

JESUS PROVED TO BE GOD

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS RELIABLE

MIRACLES ARE POSSIBLE

GOD EXISTS & HE IS THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

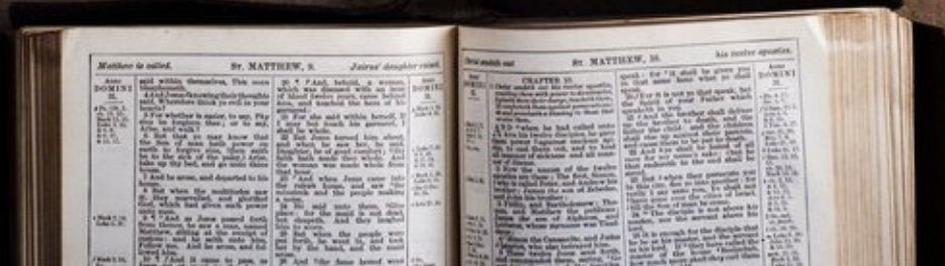
TRUTH EXISTS & WE CAN KNOW IT



Challenge #1 - Does Truth Exist?

Challenge #1:

- "Real Truth Does Not Exist. 'Truth' Is Just "Your Truth."

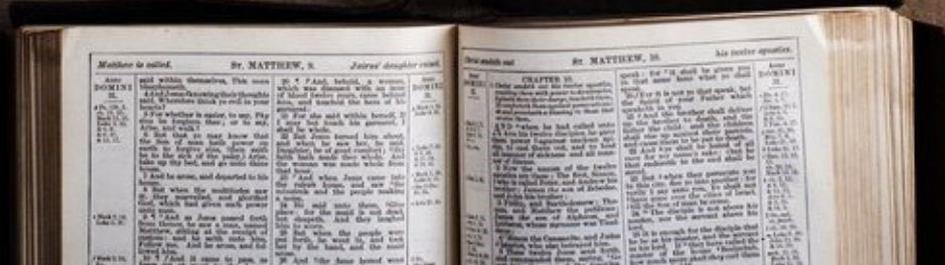


2 CONTRADICTIONARY Views:

What Is Meant by "Truth"

- View #1: Truth Is What's TRUE FOR YOU.
- View #2: Truth Is What MATCHES THE FACTS.

It is what CORRESPONDS to reality.



Argument For Correspondence View of Truth

- 1. It is implied in the ninth command (“You shall not bear false witness”), i.e., don’t misrepresent the facts.**
- 2. It is entailed in Acts 24 when it says you can “learn the truth” when you “verify [the facts]” (vs. 8, 11).**
- 3. It is manifest in Genesis 42:16 when Joseph said they should look at the facts “so that your words may be tested to see if you are telling the truth.”**

Argument For Correspondence View of Truth

4. It was employed in the test for a false prophet whose prophecy was considered false "if the word does not come to pass or come true" (Deut. 18:22).
5. It is utilized in everyday conversations when we consider something false if it misrepresents the facts (e.g., we say "check the facts" and "check it out for yourself" and the like).
6. It is essential to a legal oath when one promises "to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

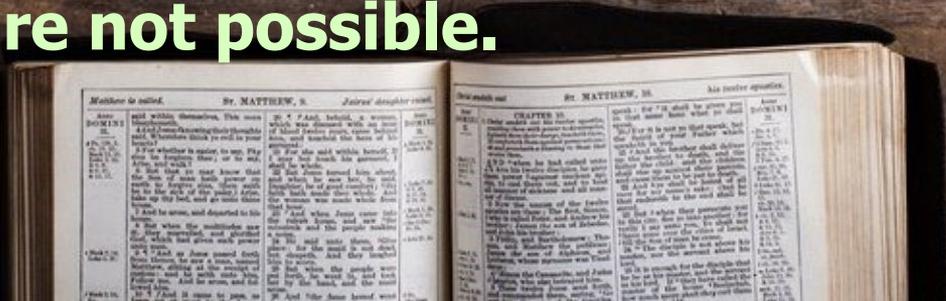
How Can We Know What Is True?

1. Examining All the Facts to See What Matches Reality.



Some Truths About Truth

- We don't INVENT truth; we DISCOVER it .
- Truth does not depend on how SINCERELY we believe something to be true.
- Truth is TRANSCULTURAL.
- Truth doesn't CHANGE.
- Contrary BELIEFS are possible **BUT** contrary TRUTHS are not possible.



How Can We Know What Is True?

1. Examining All the Facts to See What Matches Reality.
2. Learning to Think Correctly (Logically).



THE LAW OF NON-CONTRADICTION HELPS US DISCOVER WHAT IS FALSE



THE EARTH IS
ROUND

THE EARTH IS **NOT**
ROUND

Opposite ideas cannot both be true
at the same time and in the same sense.

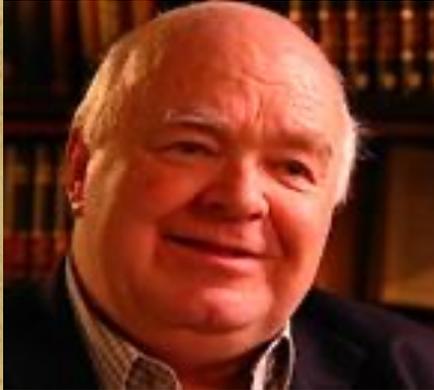


The Law of Non-Contradiction

- What it Says:
 - 2 contradictory or OPPOSITE TRUTH CLAIMS, cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense.
 - Truth Claim: - "God Exists"
 - Contradiction - "God Doesn't Exist"



THE LAW OF NON-CONTRADICTION



Oxford Professor John Lennox

God Exists!



THEY CAN'T
BOTH
BE RIGHT!

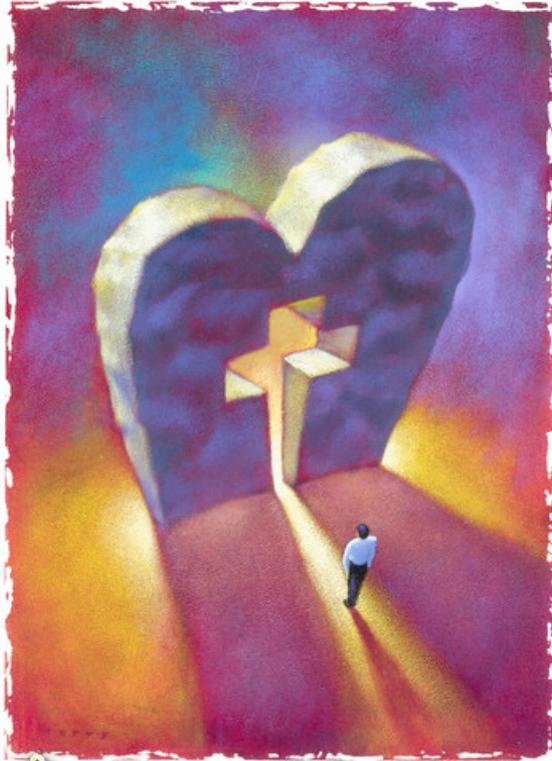


Oxford Professor Richard Dawkins

God Does
NOT Exist!



Not All Religious Viewpoints Can Be Right!



Either Jesus is The
Only Way, The Truth,
and The Life ... (Jn.
14:6)

OR

He is not The Only
Way, The Truth, and
The Life



A few things to remember about Truth!

1. Truth is not just a matter of your own perspective.



“knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit..”
2 Peter 1:20-21 ESV



A few things to remember about truth!

1. Truth is not a matter of your own perspective!

2. God's truth goes beyond reason but not against reason.

“The Apostle Paul said, “But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not yes and no.” (2 Cor. 1:18 NIV)



A few things to remember about truth!

1. Truth is not a matter of your own perspective!

2. God's truth goes beyond reason but not against reason.

- Christians must use the law of non-contradiction to maintain correct doctrine.



“He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it..” Titus 1:9



All Truth is Absolute

Something that is true is true...

- for All Persons
- at All Times
- in All Places!

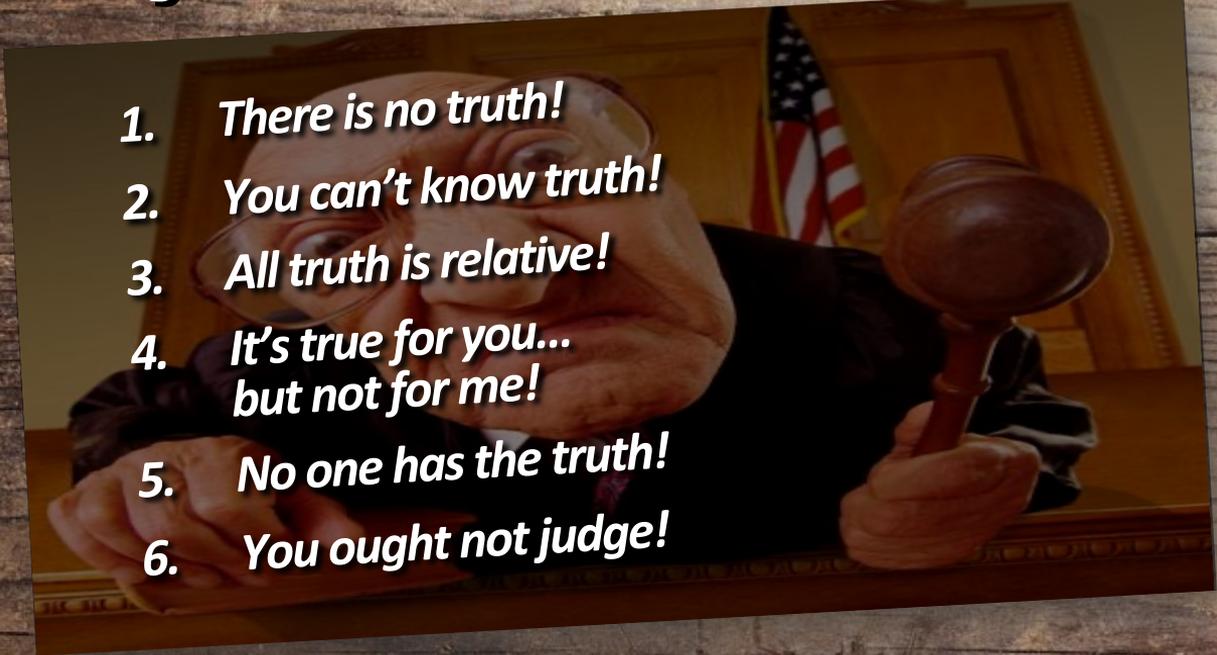


“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound[a] teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,” 2 Tim. 4:3



Objections to Absolute Truth

1. *There is no truth!*
2. *You can't know truth!*
3. *All truth is relative!*
4. *It's true for you...
but not for me!*
5. *No one has the truth!*
6. *You ought not judge!*



Your Greatest Tool in Answering These Objections:

Apply the claim to itself!

Example . . .



If someone were to say...

“I can’t speak a word in English.”

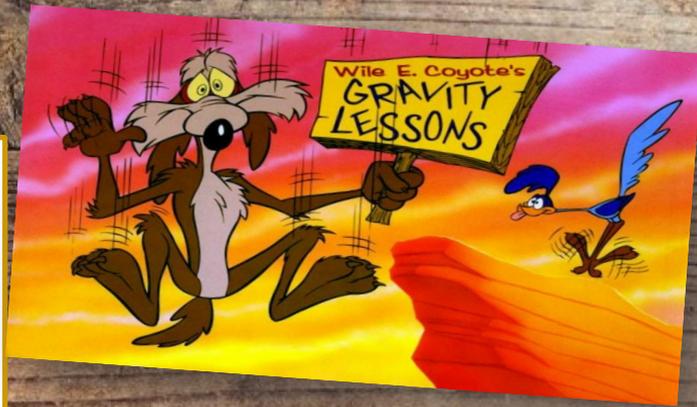


“Didn’t he say that in English?”



We call this... "The Road Runner Tactic"

Because the person making the claim has no ground to stand on.



The Road Runner Tactic

“There is no truth.”

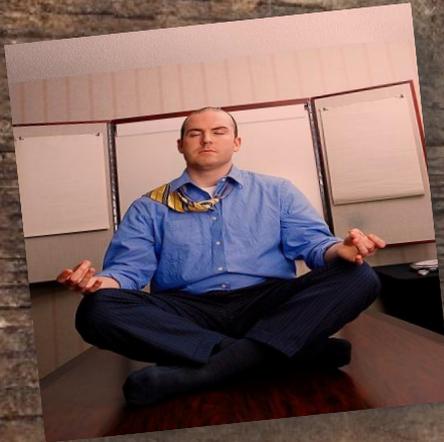


“Is that true?”



The Road Runner Tactic

“There is no such thing as absolute truth!”

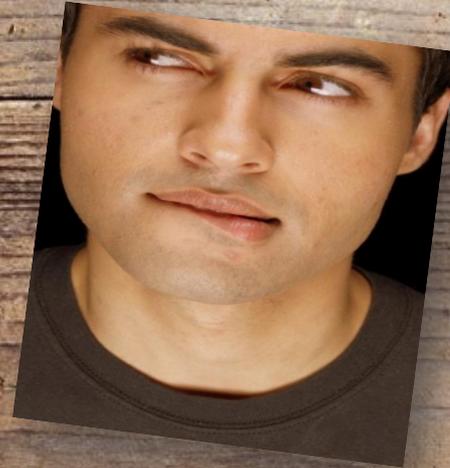


“Are you absolutely sure?”

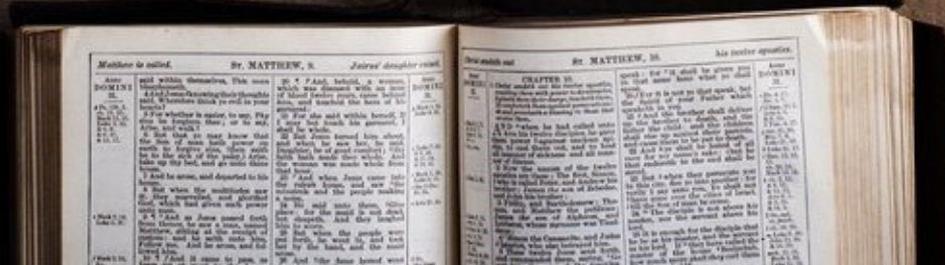


The Road Runner Tactic

"All truth is relative."



"Is that a relative truth?"



The Road Runner Tactic

"It's true for you but not for me!"



"Is that true for everybody?"



The Road Runner Tactic

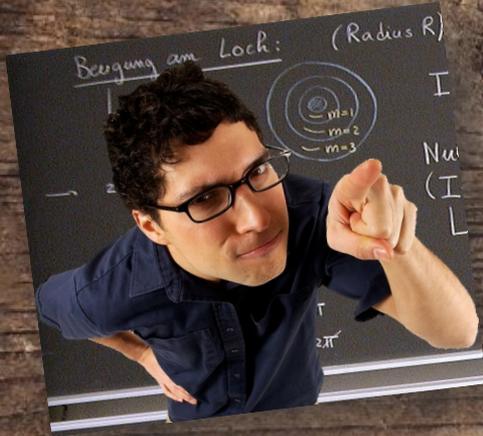
“There is no truth in anything but science.”



“Is that a scientific truth?”



The Road Runner Tactic "No one has the truth."

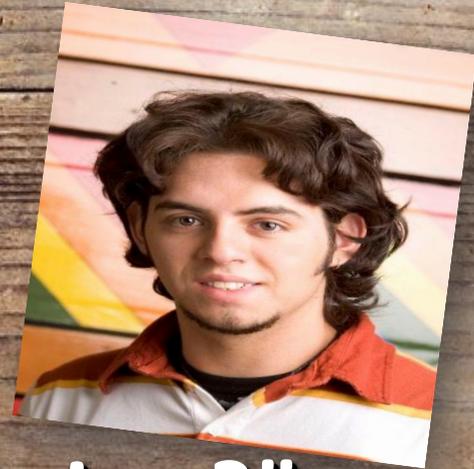


"Then how do you know that is true?"



The Road Runner Tactic

“You shouldn’t impose your moral views on others.”



“Is that your moral view?”



The Road Runner Tactic

“You ought not judge.”



“Isn't that a judgment?”



Postmodern Claim

“That’s just your interpretation!”



“Is *that* just your interpretation?”

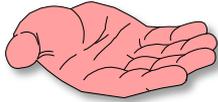


Why Is This Important?

- Common MYTH
 - all belief systems are equally true.
- Fact
 - World Religions CONTRADICT each other!



Can They All Be Right?



Christianity
Judaism
Islam

One God



Atheism,
Theravada
Buddhism

No God



Polytheism,
Mahayana
Buddhism

Many gods



Christian Truth Claims about Jesus

- Jesus IS GOD;
- Jesus has ALWAYS BEEN GOD;
- People are NOT GOD.

If CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE, then ...
everything OPPOSED to it is FALSE
(Law of Non- Contradiction)



Truth is Knowable!

Response

“I know that mercy is a virtue and not a vice even if I don't know how it is that I know this....We all know that torturing babies is wrong, fairness and kindness are virtues, hatred is a vice...”

J.P. Moreland, Love Your God with All Your Mind, 143.

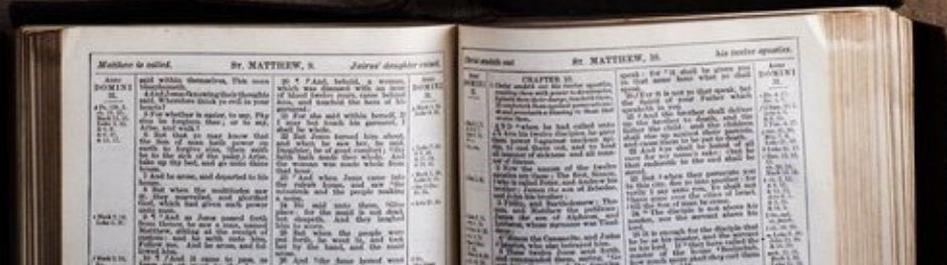
Truth Is Knowable!

Just because people tell different accounts of what happened in an auto accident, doesn't mean there is no truth to be discovered!



Illogical Belief

Remember also, just because a statement is sayable does not mean that it is meaningful.



What are Some Unmeaningful or Unaffirmable Statements?

- **You should be skeptical about everything.**
- **Always avoid making absolute statements.**
- **God is so far beyond us that we can not really know anything about Him.**
- **There is really no absolute truth.**

Some Truth Is Not Only Knowable But Also Actually Undeniable!

Example:

Winnie the Pooh

Example:

“Nobody home!”



Why We Need to Have the Right View of Truth

- Truth Affects Our DAILY Life
- Truth Affects Our ETERNAL Life
- The Bible Makes TRUTH CLAIMS



John 14:6 (ESV)

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”



Summary

- Truth is what MATCHES THE FACTS, what CORRESPONDS TO REALITY
- Truth about reality is KNOWABLE
- If a statement is TRUE, its contradiction is FALSE
- Truth is UNDENIABLE



Next Week...

Does God exist?

- How can we know?
- What's the evidence?

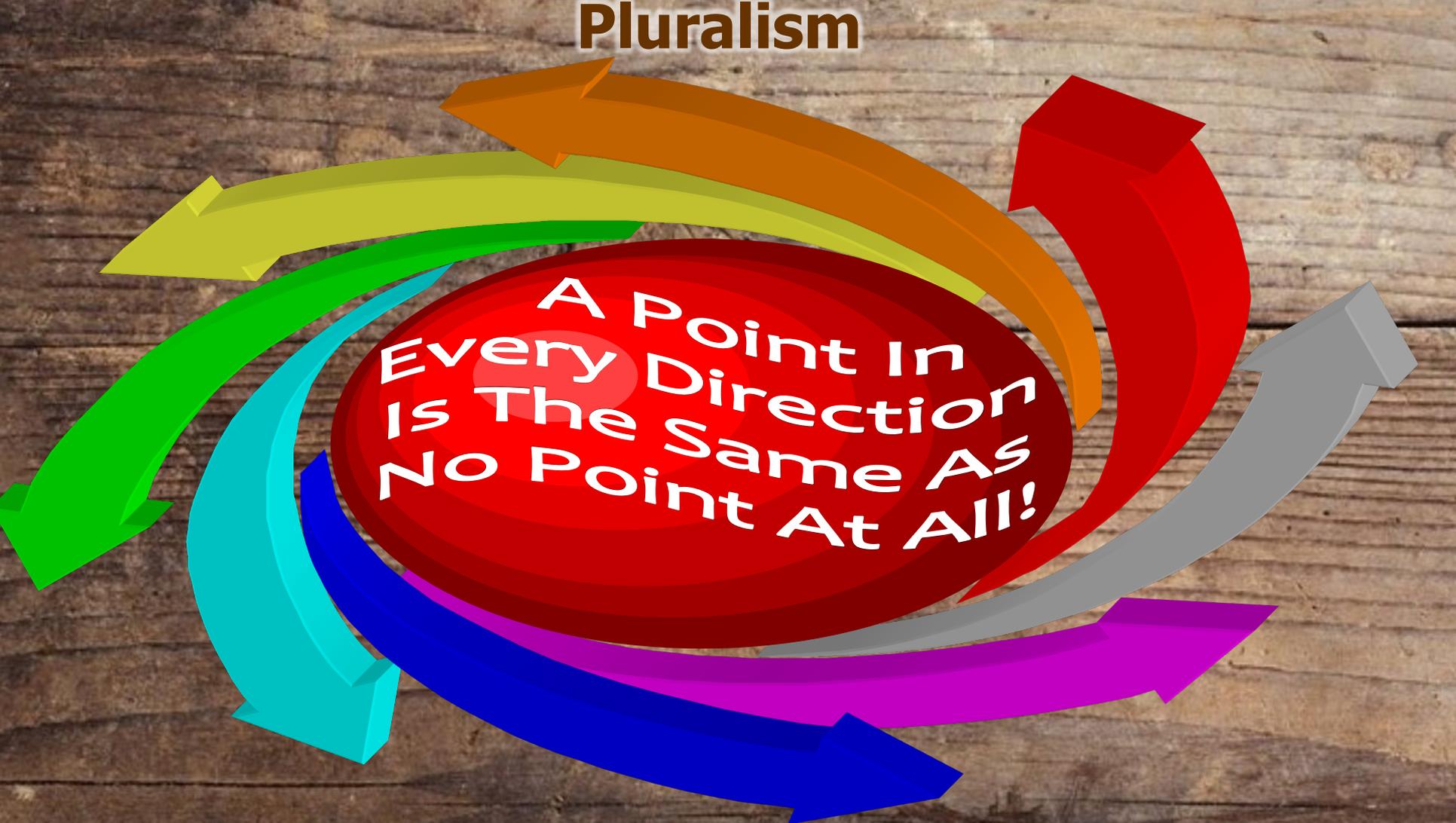


Pluralism

If all views are true

then nothing is true!

Pluralism



A Point In
Every Direction
Is The Same As
No Point At All!

Pluralism *If you embrace everything you stand for nothing!*



Pluralism

*If there can
be no one
right answer,
How can there
be any hope?*



If there is no forgiveness of sin
how can we have any hope!

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

1 Cor. 15:17

The Bodily Resurrection
of Christ is the Cornerstone for the
Christian Faith (1 Cor. 15:14)

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who dwells in you."

Rom. 8:11 (ESV)

12 Points That Show Christianity Is True

1. Truth Exists
2. The opposite of true is false

By Dr. David Geisler

