

Apologetics Concepts Part 1

If anything exists, God exists.

Apart from God, nothing can be explained, justified or proved

God is the necessary precondition for all intelligible (meaningful) human experience.

You are the ultimate proof!

Everybody has (a)

1. Presuppositions – most basic or fundamental beliefs, held tenaciously, believed by faith, not verifiable by natural science. Foundation of metaphysics, epistemology, morals/ethics/values
2. Faith – Trust in an authority, certainty, confidence in something, allows us to touch the future
3. Religion – The exercise of daily life based on one's faith
4. Theology – belief system that outlines religion
5. Philosophy – answers the larger questions, serves religion, toddler test (Why?)
6. Eschatology – view/expectation of the future that effects how you live today
7. Worldview – A network of presuppositions in the light of which all experience is interpreted and inter-related. Frames of reference through which 'reality' is viewed and new info is integrated; Within which are 'Continent Views'. Gives over-all meaning to life and identity. These are mutually exclusive and irreconcilably different.

Note the feedback-loop to presuppositions and that all the above definitions are inter-related and form a powerful interconnecting web or network that governs all human knowledge and experience. As such there is an inherent feed-back loop that adjusts the various parts of the system as needed. Of course, there is a spectrum of commitment strength, consistency, and coherence ranging from the 'true-believers' to the ignorant to the pretenders. Everyone does this but not many are consciously aware of it. Which worldview makes human experience intelligible?

Fundamental laws of reasoning and communication:

Law of Non-Contradiction: A cannot equal not-A in the same relationship at the same time

Law of Causality: every effect must have a sufficient, antecedent cause.

Sequence of causal relationships or customary relationships. Mind to arm to 8 ball.

No direct transfer of force can be perceived. David Hume

Directed, active vs passive, undirected causation. Avalanche buries skiers

Methodological Naturalism: any effect must have a natural cause.

Basic Reliability of Sense Perception: Memory: Past; Senses: Present, Induction/Inference → Future

Analogy of Language/Being: What is Good?

Philosophical Big Picture

- A. Metaphysics – Theory of ultimate reality
- B. Epistemology – Theory of knowledge
 - a. Rational – Based on reason, Mental
 - b. Empirical – Based on the senses, Experiential
 - c. Revelational – Based on knowledge revealed to us by God Himself
 1. Creation
 2. Personal
 3. Scripture
 4. Jesus
- C. Ethics/Aesthetics – Theory of right behavior; valuable, important, good, beautiful, rights, duties, Limits of Possible/Impossible, Orthodoxy/Heresy, Sacred/Blasphemy

A Standard For Standards, The AICP Test

- A. Arbitrariness: 1 Pt 3:15, Is 1:8
 - a. Mere Opinion
 - b. Relativism
 - c. Prejudicial/Ignorant/Biased Conjecture
 - d. Unargued Philosophical Bias
- B. Inconsistency: Jm 1:8, 4:8, 2 Tm 2:13, Eph 5:1
 - a. Logical Fallacies
 - b. Behavioral Inconsistency
 - c. Presuppositional Tension
- C. Consequences:
 - a. If I believe and act on it, where will I end up?
 - b. Reductio ad Absurdum - Logical Conclusions
- D. Preconditions for Intelligibility: PR 1:7
 - a. Laws of Logic, Language, Rational Debate
 - b. Uniformity of Nature, Causality, Induction
 - c. Absolute Morality
 - d. Basic Reliability of Senses and Memory
 - e. Personal Dignity and Freedom
 - f. Transcendentals

Abstract, Immaterial, Invariant, Universal Entities/Objects:

Life, logic, reason, thought, laws, truth, beauty, love, ideals, values, morals, ought, virtues, forms, ideas, imagination, number, dignity, liberty, justice, music, creativity, information, talent, consciousness, soul, mind (subjectivity, intentionality, teleology, rationality, unity, causation) and more.

Funerals, Jewelry

Everyone can observe and use these things but how to explain them is the issue.

It is philosophically and scientifically impossible to derive immaterial, invariant entities from matter.

Plato (and Kant) had realm of ideas, ideals, essences, forms; separate from the realm of material world.

Application: Four big questions: Origin, Destiny, Meaning, Morality: Are these answered individually as well as collectively coherent? (Consistency) Does the origin story justify the answer? (Preconditions for Intelligibility) Is it consistent with, or can it be lived in real, ordinary everyday life?

Presuppositional Questions/Statements

1. There is no absolute truth.
2. Nobody can know anything for sure.
3. We can't afford to cut taxes.
4. All religions are equally valid
5. The Bible is false because it contains miracles

Apologetics Keywords:

Theology, Philosophy, Science/Knowledge

Presuppositions, Worldviews

Myth Of Neutrality, Circularity

Proof vs Persuasion

Belief vs Truth

Antithesis & Enmity

Chaos vs Teleology

Relative vs Absolute

Changing vs Unchanging

Eternal vs Temporal

Personal vs Impersonal

Point of Contact, Wholly Other

Metaphysics – ultimate reality

Epistemology - knowledge

Empirical, Rational, Revelational

Experiential

Self-attesting, Self-defeating

Vicious/Virtuous Circularity

Ethics/Aesthetics – moral, important

Limits of Possible/Impossible

Orthodoxy/Heresy

Sacred/Blasphemy

Evidential, Classical

Presuppositional

Transcendentals

Internal Critique

Impossibility of the Contrary

Preconditions of Intelligibility

Don't Answer/Answer Strategy Pr 26:4-5

Law of Non-Contradiction

Law of Causality

Basic Reliability of Sense Perception

Analogy of Language

Univocal, Equivocal, Analogical

Analogy of Being

Description vs Prescription

Passive/Active Causation

Causally Closed/Open

Illusion, Self-Created, Self-Existent

Caused by Self-Existent/Necessary Being

Transcendent, Immanent

Contradiction, Paradox, Mystery

Origin, Destiny, Meaning, Morality

Creation, Miracle, Providence, Prophecy

Arbitrary, Inconsistent, Consequences

Preconditions for Intelligibility & Experience

Generalization, Naturalization, Verification

Noumenal, Phenomenal – Plato, Kant

Objective/Subjective Truth - Kierkegaard

Cosmological – cause & effect

Teleological – design & purpose

Ontological – being, existence

Transcendental – beyond material world

Abstract, Immaterial, Invariant, Universal