

Basic Apologetic Methods – Epistemology

1. Empirical – Evidential, Experiential, Scientific

“Evidence That Demands a Verdict”, “Case for Christ”

2. Rational – Classical, reason, philosophical

“Classical Apologetics”, “Apology of Aristides the Philosopher”, traditional arguments

3. Presuppositional – Revelational, transcendental, worldview analysis,

“Presuppositional Apologetics”, “In Defense of the Faith”

What Is Science?

The word “science” simply means “knowledge.” Conscience (con-science) means “with-knowledge.” By definition a mystery or uncertainty is not knowledge, neither is speculation or an educated guess.

There are at least two kinds of science that are often conflated or treated as the same thing. The first is the “how things work” kind of science called “Operational Science.” It is empirical. It is verifiable. Operational Science is observable, testable and repeatable. This is critical. It doesn’t matter where your lab is or what you believe. This is the kind of science that has brought about the ability to study nature, take it apart and rearrange the parts into whatever technology we desire, in the present, like computers, medical advances and cleaning products.

The other kind of science is “Historical Science.” It is forensic in that events in history are not observable, testable or repeatable, it is beyond the reach of operational science. The “scientific method” is limited here. The past is gone forever. Only evidence, like relics and fossils, exist, and only in the present. This kind of science is thoroughly subject to imagination, interpretation and the presuppositions of the interpreter. Just think of the variety of interpretations concerning America’s founding fathers. The agenda sets the interpretation. The further back in time we go the worse it gets.

Evolutionists have “Physics Envy.” They tell the public that the science behind evolution is the same science that sent people to the moon and cures diseases. It’s not. The science behind evolution is not empirical, but forensic. Because evolution took place in history, its scientific investigations are after the fact – no testing, no observations, no repeatability, no falsification, nothing at all like physics. I think this is what the public discerns – that evolution is just a bunch of just-so stories disguised as legitimate science.

John Chaikowsky, “Geology vs. Physics,” Geotimes, vol. 50, April 2005, p6

12. The Supernatural – The Heart of the Matter

There are only two real possibilities. There either is or is not a supernatural aspect to the universe. That is, the universe is nothing more than blind physics and chemistry (i.e., atheistic, materialistic monism), or the product of the brilliant, biblical Creator God. My own story is one in pursuit of the supernatural and learning to do the stuff. I think many have a fearful misunderstanding about the mechanics of the supernatural in general. It is not my purpose to delve into that in this book. Many have taught on the subject. Below is a very small sample of the information available. The worldview of the Bible is supernatural. Any attempt to naturalize the Bible will destroy it. By definition, the supernatural, in any form, is beyond the reach of “Methodological Naturalism” [discussed later] and therefore, doesn’t exist. Also, the existence of anything outside of Nature’s Box would constitute supernatural objects.

I would also recommend the book “Miracles” by C.S. Lewis.

Pew Research Center, *Spirit and Power: A 10-Country Survey of Pentecostals*

Countries: United States, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, India, Philippines and South Korea

Results: ~200 million claim to have witnessed miraculous healings.

(<https://www.pewforum.org/2006/10/05/spirit-and-power/>)

“All Christian churches in China practice some form of healing ... In fact, according to some surveys, 90% of new believers cite healing as a reason for their conversion. This is especially true in the countryside where medical facilities are often inadequate or non-existent.”

Edmond Tang, *Yellers and Healers – Pentecostalism and the Study of Grassroots Christianity in China*

It is no longer plausible to tout “uniform human experience” (explained below) as a basis for denying miracles, as in the traditional modern argument. Hundreds of millions of claims would have to be satisfactorily explained in nonsupernatural terms for this appeal to succeed; while many may be so explained, one cannot adopt the conclusion of uniformity as a premise without investigating all of them.”

Craig Keener, *Miracles*, 764

“Uniform human experience” derives from the atheistic philosophical view that only things common to all human beings are real. So, by definition, since every human being can’t do miracles (raise the dead, walk on water), they are not real for any human being, and anyone claiming miracle is lying or somehow deceived. If everybody can’t do it, nobody can do it. Also called generalization.