

1 Peter Series

Lesson #088

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Dean Bible Ministries

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GIVING AN ANSWER – PART 6

OLD TESTAMENT:

WHY FACTS AREN'T NEUTRAL

1 PET. 3:15; GEN. 2:17; 3:8–13

A photograph of a church steeple silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the steeple is a dark silhouette against the bright background. The foreground shows the dark outlines of trees and the roof of the church.

1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

Introduction to Apologetics

1. **What is *Apologetics*?**
2. **Why should we learn about apologetics?**
3. **Why do some people object to apologetics?**
4. **The Bible doesn't use apologetics, why should we?**
5. **What is the difference between Apologetics and Christian Evidences?**
6. **On what basis do we defend, support, argue, that Christianity is the one and only TRUTH?**

Introduction to Apologetics

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The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM Classic Apologetics- Logic and reason	Innate ideas Faith in human ability.	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM Evidentialism- Facts, history, science	Sense perceptions External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM Fideism-just believe, apart from reason or evidence	Inner, private experience; intuition Faith in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION Presuppositionalism- Presupposes the truth of Scripture	Objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic & reason

Revelational

What is their common ground?



Christian
Missionary

Infallible Truth of
Special Revelation

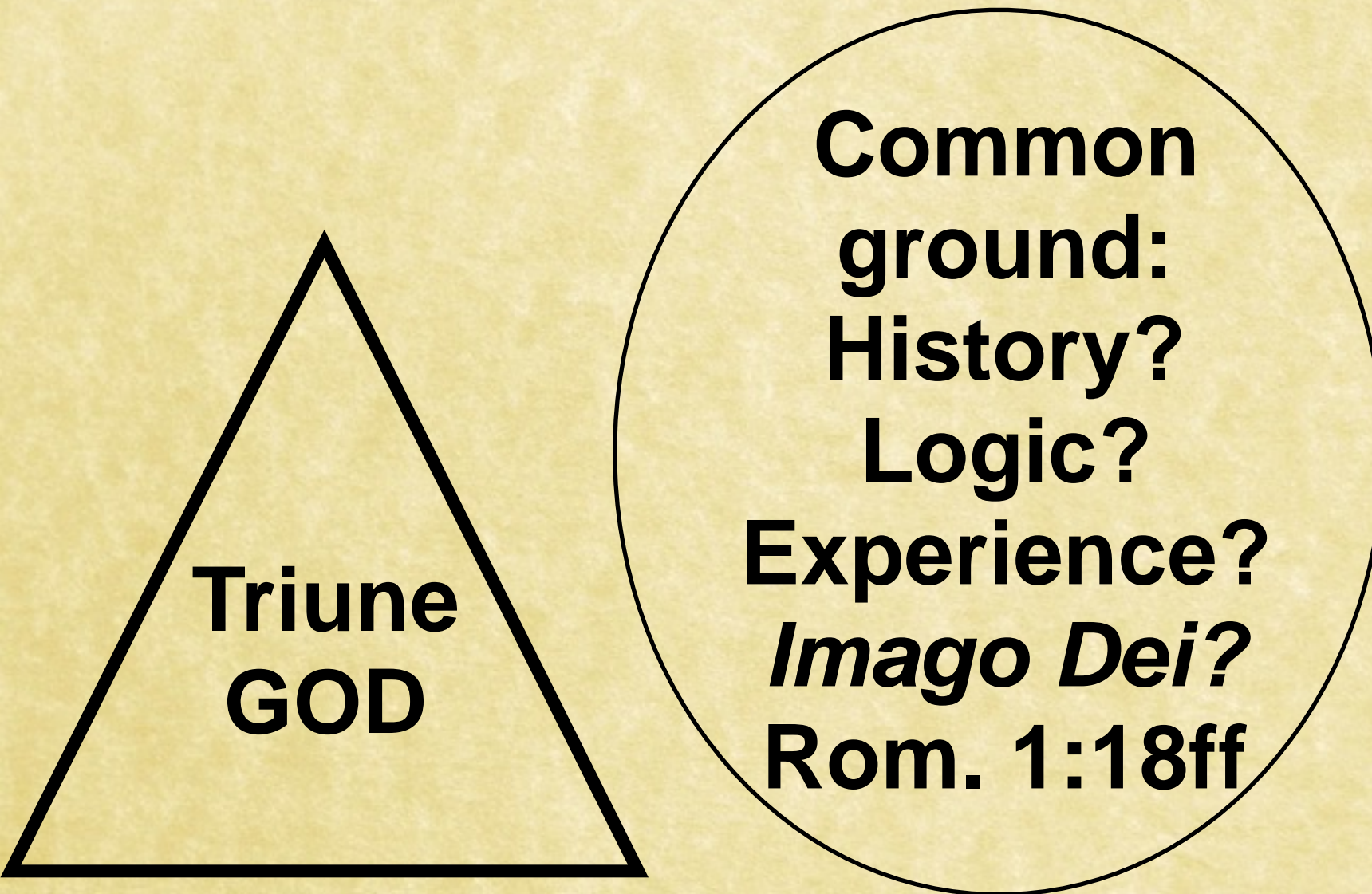
The unbeliever is in
the image of God and
knows God exists, and
that he is a sinner.

God the Holy Spirit
convincing them of
the truth



Pagan
aborigines;
Your neighbor

Divine Viewpoint vs. Human Viewpoint



**Is the common ground
apart from God or is it the
Creator–God who made
man in His image?**

**Ancient humans
Adam and Eve**

Examples:

Gen. 1:1–2:4 The Creation account directly challenges all human viewpoint (HVP) ideas of origins.

What We Learn from Gen. 1

- 1. In Gen. 1 God is speaking to pagan cultures/suppression mechanisms to challenge their assumptions.**

Thus God does not seek to “prove” His existence, His word is self-authenticating.

What We Learn from Gen. 1

2. God creates *everything*.

Ex. 20:9, “Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Ex. 20:10, “but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

Ex. 20:11, “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

What We Learn from Gen. 1

1C This means *everything*, every star, every planet; every rock, mineral, substance; every animal, bird, fish, human, every molecule, every atom, the properties of every substance and compound, the laws of physics, chemistry, biology, botany, every thing, every fact, every piece of data is what it is because God created it to be so.

What We Learn from Gen. 1

2C A corollary to this is that facts are what they are because God created them to be what they are. So as creatures communicating about God's facts we cannot be ambiguous about them or lack total confidence in them.

Facts are not neutral; facts in God's universe proclaim the glory of God. This gives us tremendous confidence.

What We Learn from Gen. 1

2C Therefore,

Things are what they are because God determined them.

God ultimately defines facts and their meaning, not man.

God ultimately defines meaning and language because He originated language.

Therefore, all knowledge is ultimately derivative of His knowledge. This is why God as TRUTH defines truth.

What We Learn from Gen. 1

Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

What We Learn from Gen. 1

Rom. 1:18–21

“This investigation began by asking two questions. First, why are human beings universally religious with a common set of doctrines? This study has argued that people everywhere are religious because they recognize the truth of God’s existence. The fact that God exists and that He is eternally powerful is, in fact, foundational to knowledge.”

~Bruce Baker, “Romans 1:18–21 and Presuppositional Apologetics”

What We Learn from Gen. 1

- 3. It speaks to humans about what is, and assumes they can understand it. This means that human beings have the ability to understand God.**

What We Learn from Gen. 1

- 4. It shows that God stands outside of all creation and is not a part of creation.**

What We Learn from Gen. 1

- 5. It reveals that mankind is morally and spiritually accountable to the Creator.**
- 6. God determines what things are, i.e., the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is what it is because God made it so. Thus, knowledge of facts isn't neutral.**

What We Learn from Gen. 3

- 1. Satan challenges the divine viewpoint encoding of the creation and reinterprets it to the creature, Eve.**

In effect, Satan contended:

“Facts and the truth about their relationship to one another can be known by man ... without getting any information about them from God as their maker and controller.”

~Van Til

What We Learn from Gen. 3

- 2. On her part, Eve sets herself up as the arbiter to determine not only what the facts are, but what they mean. This is the beginning of her downfall. She assumes autonomy rather than dependence upon God.**

Examples:

Gen. 3:8–19

- 1. Adam and the woman already knew who God was, as sinners, and hid themselves. (Gen. 3:8)**
- 2. They were not morally or spiritually neutral.**
- 3. The purpose of the confrontation is change. God questioned him to expose his problem to Adam. (Gen. 3:9)**
- 4. God asks a question (Gen. 3:9) to expose Adam's unbelief and rebellion.**
- 5. God's question assumes intellectual capability.**
- 6. They were able to identify who God was even in unbelief and to know there were consequences to their actions.**

This means that to some degree the fallen human has some realization of his situation, spiritual death, and the reality that he is under condemnation.

- The unbeliever knows within him (Rom. 1:19–21)**
- The God of the Bible (not just “a god”) is the Creator of the world**
- The world is controlled by God’s providence**
- The world is witness to a nonsaving grace of God**
- Man is responsible for evil**
- There is a need for God**
- And man’s failure to honor God results in eternal punishment (Notaro: 34)**

Examples:

- 7. They took actions to remedy the situation on their own (Gen. 3:7–8).**
- 8. Man's explanation was already slanted, leaving out details and secondary causes.**
- 9. God used historic facts, evidences, to expose Adam's sin, rebellion, and responsibility (Gen. 3:11–13).**
- 10. God's questions exposed their already present spiritual death and separation from God.**
- 11. God then outlined the consequences of the spiritual judgment.**
- 12. The unbeliever is not in neutral ignorance, but willful ignorance.**
- 13. God takes the initiative to expose unbelief and bring the unbeliever to faith.**