



Apologetics

CRU – *Institute of Biblical Studies*

January 28-February 1, 2019

Instructor: Mark Liederbach

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Course Description

This course will equip you to confidently and winsomely respond to common objections to the Christian faith, identify, and appropriately challenge the worldviews from which they arise, and better understand how cultural contexts shape unbelief. Topics we will explore include the existence and nature of God, the relationship between science and Christianity, miracles, the problem of evil and hell, the trustworthiness of the Bible, the historicity of the resurrection, as well as an introduction to moral apologetics & ethics.

Course Objectives

1. To grow in our understanding of and obedience to God's command that we love Him with our whole selves including our minds.
2. To understand the nature and role of apologetics in evangelistic and discipling conversations.
3. To acquire skill in identifying and challenging the presuppositions underlying various objections to the Christian faith.
4. To learn how to make effective use of questions to further evangelistic and apologetic conversations.
5. To become better equipped to articulate a thoughtful case for Christianity.

Required Texts

Allberry, Sam. *Is God Anti-Gay?* Epsom, Surrey, U.K. The Good Book Company, 2013.
(ISBN: 9781908762313)

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God*. New York, NY. Riverhead, 2009.
(ISBN: 9781594483493)

Liederbach, Mark "Ethics as Worship" – Article Available via email.

Platt, David. *Counter Culture*. Carol Stream, IL. Tyndale, 2015.
(ISBN: 978-1414373294)

Course Requirements

1. **Reading:** You are to master the content of the assigned text chapters and articles. You must read all of the assigned reading. You will submit a report indicating the percentage of assigned reading you completed on the final day of the course.
2. **Worksheets:** You will complete 3 apologetic worksheets that will give you the opportunity to apply what you have learned in the readings. You will be given a specific situation and then asked to formulate a thoughtful response drawing on the readings and your own previous experience. Your responses may include questions you might ask, issues upon which you would focus, etc.
3. **Evangelism Interview:** You are responsible to conduct a live interview (either face to face or over the phone- not via text, email, chat room, etc) using the attached questionnaire. Your interview must be conducted with a non-Christian or someone you have a FIRM suspicion is not a Christian. Upon completion of the interview you must turn in the interview form as well as a one page (max) written (typed) summary of your experience.
4. **Project:** The purpose of this course is to help you become more effective in the use of apologetics in the context of evangelism and follow up. During the course you will have the opportunity to develop a tool for use in your personal ministry. You have three options from which to choose:
 - a) **Evangelistic article:** The article should be targeted to your ministry audience (professors, college students, high school students, athletes). It should identify a specific objection to the Christian faith (e.g. problem of evil, religious pluralism, fate of the unevangelized, etc.) and present a carefully crafted and well-reasoned response. It is *not* a research paper. Your grade will be based on (1) evidence of a good understanding of the nature of the problem and how it challenges belief in Christian theism, (2) a well-reasoned response to this problem, and (3) proper packaging (targeted toward an audience, good introduction, and conclusion). The article should be 5 to 8 pages in length. The article should be typed, double-spaced, using 12-point font.
 - b) **Follow-up Tool:** Imagine you are sitting across the table from a *believer* attempting to give a reasoned response to an apologetic issue. This tool would help this person discover a scriptural viewpoint on an important apologetic question. Some apologetic issues (e.g. resurrection of Christ, fate of the unevangelized, Heaven and Hell, etc.) lend themselves more readily to this than others. It must include appropriate Scripture related to the issue, carefully chosen questions to aid discovery, logical progression of thought, and creative packaging. Your grade will be based on (1) evidence of a good understanding of the nature of the problem, (2) a well-reasoned scriptural response to this problem, and (3) creativity in packaging (captivating introduction, illustrations, several key points, and attractive visual layout). Note: if you wish, you may organize this tool in outline form. However it is organized, you must use only complete sentences (even for titles of main points). For ease of reading, it should be double-spaced, use font no smaller than 12-point, and be at least three pages in length. There is no maximum length, and you are encouraged to include diagrams and/or art work.
 - c) **Evangelistic Talk:** The talk should contain about 30 minutes of content (about 4-5 pages of notes) and must interact with one apologetic issue. The talk should be targeted to your audience (college students, high school students, athletes, etc). It must identify a specific objection to the Christian faith, and present a carefully crafted and well-

reasoned response. You will turn in a *detailed* outline (typed) of the talk. “Detailed” means a clear statement of every thought/idea you intend to communicate. Your introduction, conclusion, and illustrations must be word for word. Even your outline points should be expressed in complete sentences. Your grade will be based on (1) evidence of a good understanding of the nature of the problem you discuss and how it challenges belief in Christian theism, (2) a well-reasoned response to this problem, (3) creativity in presentation, and (4) proper elements of a good talk (captivating introduction, good illustrations, several key points, and a conclusion). Your notes should be double-spaced and no smaller than 12-point font.

Reading Assignments & Worksheets:

Date Due	Topic	Assignment	What is Due?
Monday 1/28 Morning	<i>Intro to Apologetics</i>	T. Keller, Intro, Chapter- 1 Liederbach – Ethics as Worship	DUE: Worksheet #1
Monday 1/28 Afternoon	<i>Evidence for God</i>	T. Keller, Chapters 8 & 9 D. Platt, Chapter 1	
Tuesday 1/29 Morning	<i>Science, Scientism & Miracles</i>	T. Keller, Chapter 6 D. Platt, Chapter 9	DUE: Worksheet #2
Tuesday 1/29 Afternoon	<i>Can We Trust the Bible?</i>	T. Keller, Chapter 7	
Wednesday 1/30 Morning	<i>Jesus & the Resurrection</i>	T. Keller, Chapters 12-13	DUE: Worksheet # 3
Wednesday 1/30 Afternoon	<i>Only One Way?</i>	D. Platt, Chapter 10	
Thursday 1/31 Morning	<i>The Morality of God & The Problem of Evil</i>	T. Keller, Chapters 2 -5	Evangelistic Interview
Thursday 1/31 Afternoon	<i>Ethical Foundations</i>	D. Platt, Chapter 3	
Friday 2/1 Morning	<i>Sex and Marriage</i>	D. Platt, Chapter 6	DUE: Reading Report, Project
Friday 2/1 Afternoon	<i>LGBTQ & Christianity</i>	S. Allberry, entire book	

Page Totals: 401

Liederbach- 16

Keller – 200

Platt- 113

Allberry -88

Course Grade

Your course grade will be based on the following:

Reading Report	20%	(due at the beginning of class, Friday, 2/1)
Apologetic Worksheets	30%	(due as shown in Course Assignments above)
Evangelism Interview	30%	(due at the beginning of class, Friday, 2/1)
Final Project	20%	(due Monday following the class, Monday, 2/4)

Grading Scale

94-100	A
92-93	A-
90-91	B+
84-89	B
82-83	B-
80-81	C+
74-79	C
72-73	C-
65-71	D
0-65	F

Bring This Report With You on Friday 2/1

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I completed _____ % of the required readings

Signature _____

IBS ETHICS INTERVIEW: TOLERANCE & MORALITY

Hi, my name is _____ and I am taking classes at the Institute of Bible Studies. I am taking a class with **DR. LIEDERBACH** called **“CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS”**, and one of our course requirements is to conduct an interview concerning some course-related issues. The questions are primarily related to ethical issues and your opinion of Christianity. Would you be willing to take about 15 minutes to complete this questionnaire with me?

1. General:

A. Date & time _____

B. Name of interviewee _____ (first name is sufficient)

2. Are you now or have you ever been active in a church or religious organization? **YES / NO**

A. If so, which one? _____

B. How often do you attend? _____

3. Do you think human beings are basically good in nature or basically sinful (evil)? Why?

4. What do you think is the biggest problem of humanity today?

Economics	Sin	Intolerance	Environment	Racism
Politics	Religion	Poverty	Lack of Educ.	War
Terrorism	None	Other: _____		

A. Why?

5. What, in your opinion, is the biggest ethical (moral) issue facing our country today?

Abortion	Homosexuality	Pornography	International Conflicts
Euthanasia	Suicide	Industrial Waste	Human Rights
Animal Rights	Organ Donation	Gambling	Divorce
Drug Abuse	Genetic Engineering	Sexual Promiscuity	Capital Punishment
Other?			

6. In your opinion, do moral absolutes actually exist (i.e., are there moral laws that apply all the time in all circumstances, in all places)? **YES / NO / UNSURE**

A. If so, then ...

1) Where do they come from? _____

2) What will be the reward for keeping such absolutes? _____

B. If not, in your opinion what is the moral basis for any morality in society (i.e., if nothing is absolute, on what authority can we justify enforcing laws)?

7. If asked to explain your philosophy of life, would your answer be:

DEFINITE / VAGUE / NONE

8. To what extent could you honestly say you live according to your philosophy of life?

ALL THE TIME / MOST OF THE TIME / SOME OF THE TIME / SELDOM / NONE

9. Does your philosophy of life include a solution for the problems identified in Questions #4&5?

A. If you have no philosophy of life, then what solution do you have for the problem identified in Question #3?

“The last 2 questions are a little more in depth and turn more toward Christian ideas about the foundation for morality and ethical living”

10. According to the Bible, Christianity rests on four central truths that form the foundation for its opinions on matters of morality and ethics. *I'd like you to read through **all four of these truths** together and then go back and get your opinion on each of them individually* (i.e. whether you agree, disagree, or are unsure).

A. God loves you and has created you to have a personal relationship with Him. (John 3:16, John 10:10b)

AGREE / DISAGREE

1) Why? _____

a) *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

b) *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10b).*

B. The Bible asserts that the basis for moral and ethical problems is the reality that human beings are sinful. That is, all of us have made choices to disregard God's perfect rules. The penalty for sin is separation from God and eternal death. On their own efforts humans are unable to overcome this separation. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)

AGREE / DISAGREE

1) Why? _____

a) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).*

b) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).*

C. Jesus Christ is God's only solution for each person's sin. Through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead Jesus paid the penalty each of us deserve for our sin. Through faith in Him alone you can have a relationship with God and forgiveness for sin. (Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3-5, John 14:6)

AGREE / DISAGREE

1) Why? _____

a) *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).*

b) *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).*

c) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me (John 14:6).*

D. Each person must individually make an informed, act-of-the-will decision to place his or her faith in Jesus Christ (receive Him as Savior and Lord). It is only then that a person can know and experience God's love and forgiveness and have a proper basis for moral and ethical living. (John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9)

AGREE / DISAGREE

1) Why? _____

a) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).*

b) *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

c) *That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).*

11. If you agreed with all of question 10, have you ever made a personal, act-of-the-will decision to place your faith in Christ?

A. If so, when? _____

B. If not, what holds you back?

C. If you disagreed with any of question 10, what (if anything) would it take to convince you on that point?