

Defending the Faith

10 Week schedule

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Class 1

Introduction to the Apologetics Class The Nature and Meaning of Apologetics

What is evangelism?

The word *evangelist* in the New Testament comes from the Greek word *eujaggelistav* meaning “to announce news,” and is usually rendered as “preach the Gospel.”

When I was in India I met a man in the hotel lobby. He asked if I was with a group and what was I doing in India. I saw this as an open door to evangelize this person. He was a surgeon from London visiting his parents in Trivandrum India. I told him I was with a ministry team from the United States and that we were in India to have a series of crusades. After the introductions I asked him what he believed. He said he was an atheist. I started to tell him that God loved him, when right a way he said I told you I don't believe there is a God. At that moment I had to use a PRE-Evangelistic approach.

What is pre-evangelism?

Some people need answers to overcome “intellectual road blocks” before they can come to faith.

Pre-evangelism **clarifies** Christian doctrine. In my encounter with this gentleman his road block was that he didn't believe a God existed at all.

The differences between evangelism and pre-evangelism are illustrated below.

Evangelism

Done by all Christians
Anytime, any place
Content is Gospel
Based on Revelation
States Gospel
Goal is faith

Pre-Evangelism

Done by any Christian when needed
Only if an objection is raised
Content is all of Christian doctrine
Based on reason
Clarifies Christian teaching
Goal is understanding ⁱ

You may be thinking, I'm not an “apologist” I can't do that. I want to encourage you Anybody can do it.

Here are three reasons why:

1) UNBELIEVERS HAVE GOOD QUESTIONS ⁱⁱ

The objections that unbelievers have are not usually trivial. Questions like, “There are so many different religions, how do I know that Christianity is the truth?” are important. If we can not answer this question, then why should they believe this truth?

2) WE HAVE GOOD ANSWERSⁱⁱⁱ

Most skeptics have heard only the questions and believe that there are no answers. But we have some great answers to their questions! Christianity is true. That means that reality will always be on our side, and we just need to find the appropriate evidence to answer whatever question is asked. Fortunately, Christian thinkers have been answering these questions ever since Paul's time, and we can draw on their knowledge to help us find the answers we want.

3) GOD COMMANDS US TO GIVE THEM THE ANSWERS^{iv}

1 Pet. 3:15-16 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak evil against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. (NLT)

2 Cor. 10:5-6 We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds. With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ. (NLT)

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude 21-23 Live in such a way that God's love can bless you as you wait for the eternal life that our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy is going to give you. Show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. There are still others to whom you need to show mercy, but be careful that you aren't contaminated by their sins. (NLT)

Titus 1:8-9 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

2 Tim. 2:23-26. Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. (NLT)

The exciting thing is that we can be logical in our approach to apologetics. Logic is a valid tool for discovering truth. Unlike other religions who depend on a "blind leap of faith".

We also have biblical examples of pre-evangelism: See: Acts 14:8-18; 17:16-34; 24:5-21; 26:1-29. Moses, Elijah (**1 Kings 18:21-39**), and Jesus were all pre-evangelists.

The Need for Christian Apologetics

The Biblical Command (1 Pet. 3:13-16)

1) The Necessary Foundation: “Sanctify Christ in Your Heart”

This is in the “Aorist Imperative” in the Greek, which implies that every believer must come to the place of accepting Jesus’ complete Lordship over every area of their lives. This is a command to set God/Christ apart in your life, meaning to make Him holy and sacred in your life, or to place Him in the highest position of honor and importance in your life. Without this act of consecration, effective service is quite impossible. ^v

2) The Personal Preparation: “Always be Ready”

This is the challenge to be ready and prepared WELL IN ADVANCE — ready in season (i.e., when it is planned or convenient), and out of season (i.e., when it is sudden or inconvenient). In other words, we don’t ever want to be caught off guard and fail in our task. Therefore, we should never be unprepared; we should never be timid; and even worse, we should never be unwilling. ^{vi}

3) The Situation: “When You are Asked to Present an Answer”

My assumption is that we will be asked **WHAT** we believe, and then **WHY** we believe it. And this will certainly be the case if we are really living holy lives! Thus, our life lived before the watching world is not evangelizing in itself, but it is a sufficient witness to provoke those around us into asking questions about our faith and convictions. ^{vii}

4) The Question: “What is the Reason for Your Faith/Hope?”

The question “**What do you believe**” will be closely followed by “**Why do you believe it?**” It is in this context that we must understand the nature of apologetics. The first question is simply answered by a personal response regarding your beliefs. However, the second question must be answered in light of biblical reasons regarding your beliefs. It is at this point that we begin to make an “apologia” for the faith and that we must build a biblical defense, or a biblical case, that convinces the seeker about the validity and credibility of our Christian position. ^{viii}

5) The Response: Present a Reason, Defense, and Apologia for your Faith

The Christian must never hesitate to take a stand by giving the reason(s) for his belief. We must see ourselves in the arena of the courtroom where the TRUTH is actually on trial (remember: we are not on trial, although we will be challenged). We are called to develop and present an adequate case that will defend the truth in order that its integrity will be readily apparent to all challengers. This involves presenting a reasonable and rational account of WHY it is true. ^{ix}

6) The Manner: Present Your Answer with the Proper Godly Attitude

This means with MEEKNESS, considering how others feel (remember that meekness is not weakness, but rather strength under control). This means with fear, implying a godly reverence and caution, or a carefully considered response. This means with good conscience, implying that we truly believe and live what we are claiming. ^x

7) The Result: Your Argument and Lifestyle will not be refuted

Those who oppose the faith will see the reason(s) for your belief, thereby realizing its legitimate content. They will see the intensity and earnestness of your biblical convictions. In addition, they should see a lifestyle that directly corresponds with what you have proclaimed to be true. They still might not come believe what you say, because saving faith is not just a matter of intellectual agreement. The person’s will must first be submitted to the Lordship of Christ. However, the questioner will not be able to argue further on the basis of the evidence presented. ^{xi}

The Proper Use of Apologetics

1) Don't just seek to win arguments, but rather to win souls!

The goal of the apologist is not merely to win an argument or prove the point. We are attempting to win someone to a biblical viewpoint in order that they may receive eternal salvation. We must not win the argument and lose the person in the process.

2) Don't become cold and merely intellectual in your apologetic

There is the danger of becoming too rational and strictly cognitive in our approach to other people. Be humble and allow yourself to be real and vulnerable with those who oppose you. They need to see your passion and for what you believe, and how it has changed your life!

3) Don't ever neglect your own personal preparation to be effective!

Don't make the mistake of presuming upon the Holy Spirit, thereby trusting in the erroneous notion that He will somehow make up for your personal neglect. What we desire is that He anoint and make effective our personal preparation so that it will have the desired impact upon another person's life. Therefore, we must study diligently to show ourselves approved, thereby becoming an effective instrument in God's hands.

4) Don't attempt to do the work of the Holy Spirit in your apologetics!

Remember that objective evidences alone will never be sufficient to save anyone. It takes the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit to make that evidence practical and relevant to the listener. Always leave adequate room for the Holy Spirit to do what only He can do, and what He has promised to do! You are simply called to preach the Word and make an adequate defense for the faith.

5) The inquirer should receive solid answers to his questions!

In other words, don't resort to typical "pat" answers and Christian clichés that are used so commonly. Give the inquirers the solid answers that they deserve, just as the Lord Jesus Himself would do! Remember, even the unbeliever is not so stupid as to be fooled by "Christian hype" and unsatisfactory answers.

Three Common Problems in the Church Today

1) Spiritual Zeal Apart from Biblical Knowledge

I take this point from the principle mentioned by Paul in Romans 10:2. It is possible, and all too common today, to have a great zeal for God but little or no knowledge of the truth. However, a zeal without knowledge is really misdirected energy; ultimately it is chaotic, and serves no useful purpose. In fact, I would suggest that it is actually very dangerous, for it demonstrates and promotes a kind of mindless Christianity that is not biblical.

2) The Decline of Doctrine and Increase of Experience

The typical modern thought concerning doctrine and theology is that it is old fashioned and out-dated. The emphasis now is on personal experience, the subjective impression an event produces, how one feels about things, etc. Everything is evaluated by a subjective appraisal, with the thought of object reality and absolutes having very little part in our approach to Christianity. We are quickly becoming experiential in our outlook, and even living life vicariously through the personal experiences and testimony of others.

3) The Growing Tendency Toward Pragmatism in the Church

In the old days of previous centuries, whether something was true or not is what was important to the Christian. TRUTH WAS THE ISSUE. But things have slowly changed, and what is now important to the Christian is whether something works or not. RESULTS ARE THE ISSUE! Truth has become that which the majority agrees to, or what appears to work well, or that which brings the success and happiness we seek after.

JUDGING OTHERS: IS IT ALWAYS WRONG?^{xii}

WHEN JUDGING IS WRONG

1) Hypocritical Judgments

No one appreciates it when people harshly criticize or condemn others for doing things that they are guilty of doing also.

Hypocrites who judge others will have to face judgment themselves.

Matt 7:1-5 Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me remove the speck from your eye"; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.

2) Unjust Judgments

Jesus said "...do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

John 7:23-24 "If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the Law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Jesus is warning against superficial judgments.

3) Presumptuous Judgments

Some things we cannot judge, such as the salvation of an individual.

Acts 17:31...because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

WHEN JUDGING IS RIGHT

1) Judging Truth From Error, And Good From Evil

We are to do this, not merely as individuals but corporately as the church as well.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Rom. 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

1 Cor. 12:10...to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1 Cor. 14:29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

1 Thess. 5:19-22 Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

2) Judging Unrepentant Believers

Both Jesus and Paul taught that those who commit serious sins that violate the integrity of the church, and refuse to repent, should be excluded from Christian fellowship.

Matt 18:15-18 *“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. if he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. but if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

1 Cor. 5:9-13 *I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore put away from yourselves the evil person.*

3) Judging Teachers Of False Versions Of Christianity

Not only are we obligated to reject false prophetic revelations and false doctrine, but we are to reject those who bring them.

Rom. 16:17 *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*

Gal. 1:6-9 *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

2 Tim. 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Tim. 4:2-4 *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

False Teachers Are To Be Identified By Name If Necessary.

2 Tim. 2:17 *And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort.*

2 Tim. 4:14 *Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.*

The Church Needs To Be Warned Not To Support False Teaching.

Titus 3:10 *Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition.*

Class 2

Is Doctrine Really Necessary? 5 Principles of Hermeneutics

How to determine Context

The word *doctrine* has become a negative term for many, along with words like ‘dogma’. Even many evangelical Christians, who would agree with certain doctrinal positions, pay little attention to doctrine beyond a certain minimum.^{xiii}

Doctrine is often said to be:

(1) irrelevant, (2) impractical, (3) divisive, (4) unspiritual, and (5) unknowable.

Presenting positive answers to these charges can best show the importance of doctrine.^{xiv}

Robert Bowman says “The relevance of Doctrine in popular thought has to do with insignificant matters that are irrelevant to most people. Although doctrine can be trivialized, Christian doctrine is extremely relevant to all people. Christian doctrine (i.e., the teachings of Scripture) addresses the fundamental questions of life.”^{xv}

The questions that he is talking about are essential to having a “Biblical worldview”, such as: Who God is, who we are, and why we are here (Ps. 8:3-8; Heb. 11:6).

He goes on to say “How we answer these questions decisively shapes the way we live.”

To ignore them is to build our faith on sand rather than on the Rock. (Lk. 6:47-49)

Col. 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world rather than according to Christ.*

Doctrine is particularly important because a sound proclamation of the Gospel of salvation depends on an accurate understanding of what that gospel is, what salvation is, and how salvation is received (Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Tim. 4:16). Nothing less than our eternal future depends on it. I do not mean to imply that to be saved we must all become theologians and experts on every fine point of doctrine. But the Church as a whole must take great care that it faithfully proclaims the true Gospel, and [understand] that every Christian has a stake in the matter. It is true that some doctrinal issues are less important than others are. One of the most crucial functions of Christian theology, and one of the most neglected, is to *sort out the really important [and] the essential from the less important and even the irrelevant* (see Rom. 14). Thus, handled properly, doctrine is very relevant to human life, and pursuit of sound doctrine should therefore be the concern of every person.

The Knowability of Doctrine

Some people avoid studying Christian doctrine because they are convinced it is too difficult or complex to grasp. While small children, may be incapable of understanding doctrinal matters, the vast majority of adults, young and old, are able to understand much more than they have bothered to learn. *Every individual is responsible to acquire doctrinal knowledge as his or her mental faculties, educational level, and opportunity allow.*^{xvi}

Doctrine^{xvii}

Bibliology: Doctrine of the Bible

Theology Proper: Doctrine of God

Christology: Doctrine of Christ

Pneumatology: Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Angelology: Doctrines of Angels, Satan, and Demons

Anthropology and Hamartiology: Doctrines of Man and Sin

Soteriology: Doctrine of Salvation

Ecclesiology: Doctrine of the Church

Eschatology: Doctrine of Last Things [End Times]

THE 5 PRINCIPLES OF HERMENEUTICS

- Principle #1. Interpret Passage in Light of the Context?**
- Principle # 2. Interpret According to Meaning of Words**
- Principle # 3. Interpret Passage According to the Grammar**
- Principle # 4. Interpret Passage According to Background.**
- Principle # 5. What Does the Rest of Scripture Say?**

HOW TO DETERMINE BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Context: Is that principle by which God gives light upon a subject through either near or remote passages bearing upon the same theme.^{xviii}

1) Every verse must be studied in the light of its context. **Never take a verse out of its setting and give it a foreign meaning!**^{xix}

2) There is the “IMMEDIATE CONTEXT” and the “UNITY OF SCRIPTURE” or what the “BIBLE SAYS AS A WHOLE.”

Examples: how to determine the immediate context

Phil. 2:12 “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;”

In the above example it would seem that we would have to “work out our own salvation” *meaning salvation is based on works.*

But Eph. 2:8-9 tells us that: ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Does the Bible contradict its self? Are we saved by our own works or by the grace of God?

Well, we need to determine what the immediate context of Phil.2:12 is.

All we need to do is read verse 13. ¹³” for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”

It is God who does the work. All we need to do is cooperate with him. How did we come to this conclusion?

Let’s look at verses 1-4.

¹ “Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³*Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

The context is - living for others. Paul will first give us the command (verses 1-4), then in verses 5-11 he gives us the example.

⁵ “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. ⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Rom. 12:2 “Let this mind be in you” this is a person cooperating with God by being - “transformed by the renewing of your mind”

Now let's look again at verses 12-13

¹²“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”

Let's look at another Example:

Some Homosexual Ministers would accuse Jesus, King David, Ruth and Naomi of being Homosexuals

Let's look at their arguments.^{xx}

Jesus loved Lazarus, Mary and Martha. What drew Jesus to his very non-traditional family group of a bachelor brother living with two spinster sisters? Two barren women and a eunuch are Jesus adult family of choice. Are we to assume they were all celibate heterosexuals? What if Mary and Martha were not sisters but called each other “sisters”, as did most lesbian couples throughout recorded history?

John's gospel refers no less than eight times to the “one whom Jesus loved,” also called “beloved disciple.” Scholars rarely explore that fact that Jesus obviously had a particularly close friendship with one man. Whether or not Jesus was gay — homophobia has silenced exploration of this relationship.

And Ruth said, “Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee for whither thou goest, I will go and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.” (Ruth 1:16)

Although used in heterosexual marriage ceremonies for years, this is a vow between two women! When their husbands die in battle, Ruth makes this vow to Naomi, her mother-in-law. Ruth marries Boaz, a close relative, and redeems Naomi's place in her own family, also bearing a child for Naomi. Did Ruth and Naomi have a lesbian relationship?

Another story, that of David and Jonathan, occurs in a time when male warrior/lovers were common and considered noble. This tragic triangle of passion, jealousy and political intrigue between Saul, Jonathan and David, leads to one of the most direct expressions of same-sex love in the Bible: “I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; you have been very pleasant to me. Your love to me was more wonderful than the love of women.” (2 Samuel 1:26)

The author is clearly attuned to David's classic male beauty (1 Samuel 16:12) in this story of love and loyalty marked by romantic (1 Samuel 18:1-5), secret meetings (1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42), kissing and weeping (1 Samuel 20:41), refusal to eat (1 Samuel 28:32-34), and the explicit warrior/lover covenant which David keeps after Jonathan's death (1 Samuel 20:12-17, 42). One cannot read this account without discerning that Jonathan was the love of David's life. Centuries of homophobic Biblical interpretations have kept them in the closet too long!

THE BIBLE CLEARLY CONDEMNS THE ACT OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. (Lev. 18:22)

Judges 19:22 *As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, “Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!”*

1 Cor. 6:9 *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites...*

Jude 1:7 *...as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

Conclusion: If the Bible condemns David for adultery, it would expose his homosexuality!

Ignoring The Immediate Context

One of the simplest errors of determining the meaning of a passage, is the failure to consider the immediate context of the verse or passage in question.^{xxi}

Let's look at an example: 1 Cor. 8:5 ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords). — Here Mormons will claim that the Bible teaches that there is more than one [g]od. But if we look at the verses immediately before and after Vrs. 5, we read:

⁴ Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is no other God but one.* ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*. (Emphasis mine)

When two or more unrelated texts are treated as if they belong together, we have the fallacy of COLLAPSING CONTEXTS. This reading error can be tricky because it is the corruption of a perfectly good principle of reading: *to compare Scripture with Scripture.*^{xxii}

We are responsible as Bible students to make use of every text bearing on the subject we wish to understand. To select some texts which agree with our preconceived ideas and ignore those that don't, is a major mistake. This is called "selective citing."^{xxiii}

But it is equally possible to put texts together which do not belong together (i.e., "collapsing contexts").^{xxiv}

Faith teacher Benny Hinn in his "How to cast out demons" series, demonstrates this when he uses Num. 5:11-14 to prove that this is a "strong man" demon. He says "Notice that this man did not know that his wife was sleeping with a man. And yet the spirit of jealousy came on him. He had no knowledge of it, but a devil of jealousy came on him."^{xxv}

He then quotes Proverbs 6 and says "let me show you some of the demons connected to this strong man." After reading Vrs. 34, he says, "People hear me, rage is a demon. But that demon is connected to the strong man - jealousy."^{xxvi} Well....., let's look at the verses quoted.

Numbers 5:14 "if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him and he becomes jealous of his wife, who has defiled herself; or if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him and he becomes jealous of his wife, although she has not defiled herself -"

What is the context of Numbers 5?

First of all, let's read the read the entire chapter

Starting in verses 11, 12, 29-31 ¹¹And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹²"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ***If any man's wife goes astray and behaves unfaithfully toward him,*** (emphasis mine)

²⁹"This *is* the law of jealousy, when a wife, *while* under her husband's *authority*, goes astray and defiles herself,

³⁰***or when the spirit of jealousy comes upon a man, and he becomes jealous of his wife; then he shall stand the woman before the LORD, and the priest shall execute all this law upon her.*** ³¹"Then the man shall be free from iniquity, but that woman shall bear her guilt.' " (emphasis mine)

The context here is not difficult to determine

- 1) A man is suspicious of his wife
- 2) He can bring his wife to the priest to test her before the Lord
- 3) The test determines the honesty of the wife
- 4) If she is defiled, the test brings a curse
- 5) If she is not defiled - she is clean

Okay, now let's look at Proverbs 6:32-35

Again this passage does not even imply that rage is a demon.

Conclusion: We can determine that these verses have been taken out of context (i.e. Collapsing Context) to prove Benny Hinn's theology of demons, and does not line up with Scripture.

Class 3

Introduction to the Cults and World Religions Do's and Don'ts of Witnessing to the Cults

“An average well trained cultist can take the average Christian and with a copy of the Bible & twist them into a doctrinal pretzel.” (Dr. Walter Martin)

Let's define what we mean when we use the word CULT....*Cult in the context of this Class Is, a group of people that follow any person(s) or organization that would teach doctrines that seriously deviate from the doctrines of Classical Christianity.*

We are also dealing with world religions. These do not claim to be Christian yet are in contradistinction to Christianity.

CULTS

PRIOR TO 1850, cultists were practically unheard of in America. Today there are tens of millions of Americans involved in the cults and the occult.

A significant and ever-increasing portion of our population is intimately involved in the Culting of America.

Current statistics reveal some rather disturbing trends for those who hold biblical Christianity dear to their hearts. For example:

Most Americans reject the notion of absolute truth.

A growing proportion of Americans-(now up to one-third of the population)-do not believe in the God of the Bible, but have other notions of who (or what) God is or means.

Most Americans believe it does not matter what god you pray to because the deities of the world religions are ultimately the *same* deity, yet shrouded in different names and attributes by humankind.

Nearly two out of three American adults contend that the choice of one religious faith over another is irrelevant because all faiths teach the same basic lessons about life.

A minority of Americans have a personal relationship with Jesus

Americans are nearly evenly divided regarding whether or not Christ was perfect.

Almost half of all Americans believe Jesus made mistakes while He was on earth.^{xxvii}

The Biblical Warning

Matt. 7:15-23 *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”*

2 Cor. 11:4 *For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted— you may well put up with it!*

WE ARE COMMANDED IN SCRIPTURE TO TEST ALL THINGS

1 Thess. 5:21-22 *Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.*

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

2 Pet. 2:1-3 *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*

Gal 2:4 *And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage).*

Jude 1:3 *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

2 Cor. 11:13-15 *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*

Doesn't the Bible say you Should not let Cultists come into your house?

2 John 10-11 *If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.*

The first century church met in peoples homes.

Col. 4:15 *Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.* Christian preachers traveled and relied on local believers for support and hospitality. John is warning not to give false teachers a platform to teach their false doctrine. If you invite them to stay with you, you would compromise the purity of the church.

William MacDonald explains, *"This is the heart of the Epistle. It gives us valued advice on how to deal with false teachers who come to our doors. John does not refer to casual visitors but to anti-Christian propagandists. Should we invite them in? Give them a cup of coffee? Help them financially? Buy their literature? The answer is that we should **not receive** them or **greet** them. These people are enemies of Christ. To show them hospitality is to take sides with those who are against our Savior. ...But when we do know a man to be a false teacher, it would be disloyal to Christ to befriend him. These verses do not apply to visitors generally. We often have unbelievers as guests in an effort to win them to Christ."*^{xxviii}

DO'S AND DON'TS OF WITNESSING TO THE CULTS

Do's

Show them the love of Jesus Christ.

Define terms clearly:

Listen to them. Look them in the eyes.

Identify with them. They are people, treat them that way. Jesus died for them.

Be patient with them. God's word doesn't return void

Try to answer all their questions.

Let the cultist save face.

Take your time.

Don'ts

Do not give them the impression that you are better than they are. You'll lose them.

Do not try to impress them with your knowledge.

Do not use IN HOUSE vocabulary.

Don't talk down to them.

Do not attack the leaders of the cults, but the theology of the leaders.

Do not expect a regimented discussion. It's different every time. The key: "study."

Don't tell them what they believe.

Do not lose heart.

Class 4

The Jehovah's Witnesses

Founder: Charles Taze Russell

Founded: 1879

Writings/Publications:

1. "The Watch Tower" Magazine
2. "Awake" Magazine
3. "Studies in the Scriptures" (originally published as "The Millennial Dawn")

Noteworthy Quotes: "The man Jesus is forever dead"^{xxix} - in reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Charles Russell taught that Jesus did not bodily resurrect, but that He was resurrected as a spirit.

Other Beliefs:

1. Do not believe in receiving blood transfusions
2. Do not believe in celebrating holidays or birthdays
3. Do not believe that Jesus died on a cross, but on an upright stake

VIEW OF:

1. God: "A supreme being whose distinctive name is Jehovah"^{xxx}; "A single person, not as a single being whom are united three persons. Not present everywhere and limited omniscience."^{xxxi} Only Jehovah is from everlasting to everlasting^{xxxii} There was a time when Jehovah was alone in universal space. All life and energy and thought were contained in him alone^{xxxiii} Elohim is the plural of majesty. It does not mean that he is mysteriously a trinity^{xxxiv}

The obvious conclusion is that Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine ^{xxxv}

2. Jesus: "First creation of God, the Archangel Michael."^{xxxvi}: "In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god"^{xxxvii}; "Jesus lived in heaven as a spirit person before he came to earth. He was God's first creation, and so he is called the "firstborn" Son of God. (Colossians 1:15; Revelation 3:14) Jesus is the only Son that God created by himself. Jehovah used the pre-human Jesus as his "master worker" in creating all other things in heaven and on earth. (Proverbs 8:22-31; Colossians 1:16, 17) God also used him as His chief spokesman. That is why Jesus is called "the Word."-John 1:1-3; Revelation 19:13."^{xxxviii}; "God sent His Son to the earth by transferring his life to the womb of Mary. So Jesus did not have a human father. That is why he did not inherit any sin or imperfection. God sent Jesus to earth for three reasons: (1) To teach us the truth about God (John 18:37), (2) to maintain perfect integrity, providing a model for us to follow (1 Peter 2:21), and (3) to sacrifice his life to set us free from sin and death. Why was this needed? - Matthew 20:28."^{xxxix}; Jesus died and was resurrected by God as a spirit creature, and he returned to heaven. (1 Peter 3:18) Since then, God has made him a King. Soon Jesus will remove all wickedness and suffering from this earth.-Psalm 37:9-11; Proverbs 2:21, 22."^{xl}Jesus Christ is not One God with the Father^{xli} At baptism Jesus was anointed to become the Messiah, or Jesus the Christ (Anointed)^{xlii} He showed his subjection to God by humbling himself to a most disgraceful death on a torture stake^{xliii}

3. Holy Spirit: “The Bible’s use of “holy spirit” indicates that it is a controlled force that Jehovah God uses to accomplish a variety of his purposes. To a certain extent, it can be likened to electricity, a force that can be adapted to perform a great variety of operations.

At Genesis 1:2 the Bible states that “God’s active force [“spirit” (Hebrew, *ru’ach*)] was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters.” Here, God’s spirit was his active force working to shape the earth.”^{xliv} Holy Spirit is God’s Active Force, not a person^{xlv}

4. Salvation: Although giving lip service to salvation through faith in Christ, Witnesses actually believe that salvation is impossible apart from full obedience to the Watchtower Society and vigorous participation in its prescribed works program. Even individual JW’s who are not sufficiently zealous for the organization may not survive Armageddon, and those who do make their way into the earthly paradise must maintain good works throughout Christ’s thousand-year reign before they can be sealed for life.

5. Eternal punishment: Following the lead of its founder, Charles T. Russell, the Watchtower Society still teaches that *hades* is merely the grave, that the fire of *Gebenna* instantly disintegrates its victims into nothingness, and that there is no conscious existence for the dead until the time of their bodily resurrection.

6. Virgin Birth: “God sent his son to the earth by transferring his life to the womb of Mary. So Jesus did not have a human father”.^{xlvi}

7. Fall: “God’s test of man’s obedience and devotion is notable for the respect it showed for man’s dignity. By it God attributed nothing bad to Adam ; he did not use it as a the prohibition of, for example , bestiality, murder..., thereby implying that God felt Adam might have some despicable inclinations residing within him”.^{xlvii}

8. Sin: “Anything not in harmony with, hence contrary to, Gods personality, standards, ways, and will; marring ones relationship with God”.^{xlviii}

9. Bible: “ The Holy Scriptures, the inspired Word of Jehovah, acknowledged as the greatest book of all times because of its antiquity, its total circulation, the number of languages into which it has been translated , its surprising greatness as a literary masterpiece, and its overwhelming importance to all mankind.”^{xlix}

10. Death: “the lake of fire” into which death, Hades, the symbolic “wild beast” and the false prophet, Satan, his demons, and the persistent practicers of wickedness on earth are cast is shown to mean “second death.” Initially death resulted from and was passed on to mankind as a result of Adam’s transgression; hence “the second death” must be distinct from this inherited death.¹

11. Endtimes: The Lord returned invisibly in the year 1914 and has been present ever since, ruling as King on earth through the Watchtower Society. References to the second “coming” are rendered as “presence” in the Jehovah’s Witness Bible. The generation of people who witnessed Christ’s invisible return in 1914 will not pass away before Armageddon comes (see Matt. 24:34).

12. Resurrection: Concerning Christ, JW’s believe that he became nonexistent when he died and that he was raised three days later as a “spirit”—an angel. They deny his bodily resurrection. Going along with their teaching that Christ returned invisibly in 1914, Witnesses believe that he raised dead Christians to spirit life shortly thereafter, and that the rest of the human dead will be raised bodily during the thousand-year reign of God’s kingdom.

Class 5

The Trinity

Definition

What we are saying

Within the one being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal and coeternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

What we are not saying

Three beings that are One being

Three persons that are one person

Note: person does not mean in a human sense

There is one what and three who's. The one what is the being or essence of God the three who's are the Father Son and Holy Spirit

The relationship is eternal, Each fully shares the one being. they are not 1/3 of the whole

Lets look at some of the different views.

Modalism, Monarchianism or Sabellianism - the belief that Jesus is the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. All are one in the same. Monarchians viewed the three persons of the Godhead as mere modes of expression or activity or ways of describing God. They were not distinct, divine persons. This modalistic type of Monarchianism also came to be known as Sabellianism

Polytheism-the belief in many gods.

Subordinationism- the Father occupies a rank superior to the Son (Christ)

The Attributes of God

Natural

Spirituality- **John 4:24**

Personal- **Exodus 3:14** I AM-self existent. God is not an it or a force

Life- God is alive **Jeremiah 10:6-11** all life depends on Him

Infinity

Uniqueness-Absolute standard. He tells us what truth is.

God is Sovereign. He does not depend on anyone or anything **Isaiah 43:13; 46:9.**

Ps 135:6

Self existent- He owes his existence to no one.

Immutable- God cannot change. A perfect being cannot change. **Ps 102:25-26**

Unity- one being of God that cannot be divided up. This is Monotheism **Duet. 6:4**

Perfection- In everything

Unlimited

Eternal- Independent of the space time domain. Eternal present.

Creation

Omnipotent-God is all Powerful. **Jeremiah 32:17**

Omniscient-God has all knowledge. **1 John 3:20. Ps 147:5**

Omnipresent- Everywhere at the same time. **Jeremiah 23:24**

Cannot be the creation

He must have Authority over the Laws of nature

Three foundational elements of the Trinity

There is only one true and Living God.

God exists in three persons. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Each shares the same attributes.

There is only one true God.

GOD THE FATHER

Exodus 20:1-6 *And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before Me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

Duet. 6:4: *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*

Isaiah 40:25: *"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.*

Isaiah 40:28: *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.*

Isaiah 41:4b: *I, the LORD—with the first of them and with the last—I am he."*

Isaiah: 41:23-24, 29 *Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you are gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see it together. Indeed you are nothing, And your work is nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination Indeed they are all worthless; Their works are nothing; Their molded images are wind and confusion.*

Isaiah 42:5: *Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:*

Isaiah 42:8: *I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.*

Isaiah 43:10-13: *"You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior. I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; Therefore you are My witnesses," Says the LORD, "that I am God. Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"*

Isaiah 44:6-8: *"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.*

Isaiah 44:24: *Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;*

Isaiah 45:21 *Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.*

Hosea 13:4: “Yet I *am* the LORD your God Ever since the land of Egypt, And you shall know no God but Me; For there is no Savior besides Me.

Isaiah 45:22-23: “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.

Isaiah 46:9: Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,

Duet. 32:36-39 “For the LORD will judge His people And have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their power is gone, And there is no one remaining, bond or free. He will say: ‘Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge? Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, And drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise and help you, And be your refuge. ‘Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.

2 Sam. 7:18-22 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? “And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? “Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant. “For Your word’s sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. “Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears

1 Kings 8:60 “that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.

I Chr. 17:20 “O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

Jer. 10:6 Inasmuch as there is none like You, O LORD

(You are great, and Your name is great in might), Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your right-ful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.

Ps. 86:8-10 Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name. For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

Isaiah 48:12-13: “Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called:

I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last. Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, They stand up together.

Psalms 102:24-27: I said, “O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days;

Your years are throughout all generations. Of old You laid the foundation of the earth,

And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will

be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.

1 Cor. 8:4-6 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

1 Tim. 2:5 *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*

James 2:19 *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*

Although the Bible Speaks of Many gods (1 Cor. 8:5; Ps. 136:1), the Bible clearly states that these are false.

Galatians 4:8 *But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.*

OBJECTIONS

But some might say, Isn't Moses called a god?

Ex. 4:16 *“So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.*

What about judges they were called gods.

Ps. 82 *God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods. How long will you judge unjustly, And show partiality to the wicked? Selah Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy;*

Free them from the hand of the wicked. They do not know, nor do they understand;

They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are unstable.

I said, “You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High. But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes.” Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.

God exists in three persons. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Matt. 27:46: *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*

Luke 6:12: *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

John 16:7-15: *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: “of sin, because they do not believe in Me; “of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; “of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. “All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

Each shares the same attributes.

GOD THE SON

The Humanity of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:5-11)

1. He Had a Human Parentage.
2. He Grew as Other Human Beings Do.
3. He Had the Appearance of a Man.
4. He Was Possessed of a Body, Soul, and Spirit.
5. He Was Subject to the Sinless Infirmities of Humanity.
6. Human Names are Given to Him.

The Deity of Jesus Christ

1. Divine Names are Given to Him.
2. Divine Worship is Ascribed to Him.
3. Divine Qualities and Properties are Possessed by Him.
4. Divine Offices are Ascribed to Him.
5. Divine Attributes are Possessed by Him.
6. Christ's Name is Coupled with that of the Father.

Remember: *Difference in Function does not indicate inferiority of nature*

O.T. Theophanies
The angel of Yahweh

Exodus 3:1-2, 6: *Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.*

Gen. 22:12: *But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."*

NEW TESTAMENT

John 1:1-3: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

John 8:58 / cf. Ex. 3:14 *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." / And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

John 10:30-33 *"I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."*

Col 1:15-18: *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created*

that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Titus 2:13 NIV *While we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,*

2 peter 1:1 NIV *To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours*

Luke 2:11: *For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Ps. 102:24-27: *I said, “O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days;*

Your years are throughout all generations. Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.

Heb. 1:10 Quoting Ps 102:24-27: *He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.*

Isa 6:1-3: *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”*

John 12:39-41: *Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.” These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.*

Rev. 1:8: *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

Rev. 1:17: *And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”*

Rev 22:12-16: *“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”*

John 1:18: NIV *No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known*

Col. 2:9: *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,*

Phil 2:9-11: *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

1 Tim. 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*

Acts 20:28 *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

OBJECTIONS

1. In John 17:3 Jesus says that Jehovah is the only true God.
2. God cannot be tempted with evil, wasn't Jesus tempted?
3. John 10:34

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Job 26:13: *By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.*

Job 33:4: *The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

2 Sam 23:1-3 *Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.*

Ps 139:7-8 *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

Ps 104:30 *You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.*

1 Sam 10:10 *When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.*

Zech 4:6 *So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*

Job 33:4 same word as gen. 1:31, 2:2, 3:1, 5:1

Isa 48:16 *"Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit Have sent Me."*

Matt. 12:31-32 *"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³²"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.*

Acts 1:16 *"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;*

Acts 5:1-4: *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."*

Acts 5:9 *Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."*

Duet 6:16 *"You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.*

Acts 13:2-4: *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.*

Acts 28:25-27 *So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, "saying,*

1 Cor. 2:10 *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*

Isa 11:12 *The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

Rom 8:27 *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

1 Cor 6:11: *And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

1 Cor 12:11 *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

2 Cor. 3:15-18 *But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

Ex 34:34-35 *But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded.*

Eph 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Isa 63:10 *But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them.*

2 Thess. 3:5 *Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. **who is lord?***

Heb 9:14 *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Heb. 10:15-17 *But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

Jer 31:31-34 *"No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

Each is described in the same manner.

OMNIPOTENT

Father- Matt 19:26: *But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

Son- Heb 1:3: *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

HS- Rom 15:19: *in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

OMNISCIENT

Father- Jer 17:10: *I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*

Son- John 2:24-25: *But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,²⁵ and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.*

HS- 1 Cor 2:10-12: *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

OMNIPRESENT

Father- Jer 23:24: *Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.*

Son- Matt 18:20: *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*

HS- Ps 139:7-10: *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*

EACH ARE DESCRIBED AS TRUTH

Father- 1 Thess. 1:9 *For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,*

Son- John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

HS- John 14:17 *"the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

EXAMPLES OF THE TRINITY

Luke 1:35: *And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

Matt. 3:16-17: *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

Matt. 28:19: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the NAME of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*

Class 6 MORMONISM

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Mormonism

Founder: Joseph Smith, Jr.

Writings/Publications:

1. "Ensign" Magazine
2. "Journal of Discourses", Brigham Young, pub. 1901
3. "Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith", Lucy Mace Smith, 1853

Noteworthy Quotes: 1. "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."^{li}

2. "...God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man..."^{lii}

3. "As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become"^{liii}

Other Beliefs: 1. "The black race is a cursed people"^{liv}

"Prophets are above scripture"^{lv}

Except for the LDS church, all churches are false^{lvi}

VIEW OF:

1. **God:** Polytheistic – "Each of these God's, including Jesus Christ and his Father, being in possession of not merely an organized spirit, but a glorious immortal body of flesh and bones..."^{lvii}; God is NOT omnipresent – physically located cannot be

"physically" present in more than one place at a time^{lviii} Father God is a resurrected man with a physical body the father has a body of flesh and bone as tangible as man's^{lix}

2. **Jesus:** The spirit brother of Lucifer^{lx}; Jesus was a polygamist^{lxi}; "Christ's relationship to mankind is defined in terms of his divine roles and three phases of existence – premortal, mortal, postmortal."^{lxii}; premortal – main title Jehovah (OT), firstborn spirit child of God the Father (Elohim), representative of the Father in creation of worlds without number^{lxiii}; mortal – Jehovah becomes Jesus^{lxiv}

3. **Holy Spirit:** There is some apparent confusion on the theology of the Holy Spirit - "This leads to the investigation of that substance called the Holy Spirit or Light of Christ...There is divine substance, fluid, or essence called Spirit, widely diffused among the eternal elements..."^{lxv}; "Which Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are one God, infinite and eternal, without end. Amen."^{lxvi} The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three separate beings – they are three separate, distinct Gods.^{lxvii}

4. Salvation: Mormons teach that there is both general and individual salvation. – General: “that which comes by grace alone without obedience to gospel law, [and] consists in the mere fact of being resurrected. In this sense salvation is synonymous with immortality; it is the inseparable connection of body and spirit so that the resurrected personage lives forever.... This kind of salvation eventually will come to all mankind, excepting the sons of perdition”^{lxxviii} (the “sons of perdition” includes mainly apostates as well as, murderers (includes abortions) and homosexuals. Their ultimate destiny is the “outer darkness”); Individual: “that which man merits through his own acts through life and by obedience to the laws and ordinance of the gospel.”^{lxxix}; Mormons also teach that individual salvation can occur after death (eternal progression – premortality, mortality and postmortality) – “the Gospel must be proclaimed in the spirit world; and, that such work is provided for the scriptures abundantly prove”^{lxxx} (Among the key verses Mormons cite in support of this idea are 1 Peter 3:18-19 and 1 Peter 4:6. – also, to support baptism for the dead, Mormons use 1 Corinthians 15:29); “...the sectarian dogma of justification by faith alone has exercised an influence for evil.”^{lxxxi}; According to Mormon theology there are 3 degrees of glory – “there are three degrees of glory in the heavens and men will be rewarded according to their actions on earth.”^{lxxxii} One erroneous teaching of many Christian churches is: by faith alone we are saved. This false doctrine....would teach man that no matter how great the sin, a confession of faith in Christ as personal savior would bring him complete forgiveness and salvation ^{lxxxiii} Faith alone will not save men; neither will faith and works save them, unless they are works of the right kind...true faith and righteous works are essential to salvation; and without both of these no man ever was or ever can be saved..... There are some who believe that faith alone, unaccompanied by works, is sufficient for justification, sanctification, and salvation.... They...are without justification-without hope-without everlasting life, and will be damned, the same as unbelievers.^{lxxxiv}

5. Eternal punishment: “...no soul shall be kept in prison or continued in torment beyond the time requisite to work the needed reformation and vindicate justice for which ends alone punishment is imposed. ...after the debt has been paid the prison doors shall be opened, and the spirits once confined in suffering, the chastened and clean, shall come forth to partake of the glory provided in their class.”^{lxxxv}; “Hell will have an end.”^{lxxxvi}; There is contradiction in their view of hell (“outer darkness”) as described in the section on salvation (above) – “And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil – for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord; for behold, they chose evil works rather than good; therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house – and these shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, and this because of their own iniquity, being lead captive by the will of the devil. Now this is the state of the souls of the wicked, yea, in darkness, and a state of awful, fearful looking for the fiery indignation of the wrath of God upon them; thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in paradise, until the time of their resurrection.”^{lxxxvii}

6. Virgin Birth: “Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers. ...God the Father is a perfected, glorified, holy man, an immortal Personage. And Christ was born into the world as the literal Son of this Holy Being; he was born in the personal real, and literal sense that any mortal son is born to a mortal father. There is nothing figurative about his paternity; he was begotten, conceived, and born in the normal and natural course of events, for he is the Son of God, and the designation means what it says.”^{lxxxviii}

7. Fall: “Their [Adam and Eve] part in the Father’s plan was to bring mortality into the world...Adam and Eve were among our Father’s noblest children.”^{lxxxix}; “Adam fell, but he fell in the right direction.”^{lxxx}; In fact Mormons actually *commend* Adam and Eve for what they did.^{lxxxxi} The fall brought mortality & physical death, not a sinful nature Adam was given two conflicting commands & was supposed to fall. We ought to consider the fall of our 1st parents as one of the great steps to eternal exaltation and happiness ^{lxxxii}

8. Sin: No original sin - “it is possible to transgress a law without committing a sin as in the case of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden.”^{lxxxiii}

9. Bible: “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.”^{lxxxiv}; “Prophets are above scripture”^{lxxxv}

10. Death: “At death, the spirit and body separate and ‘the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life’ (Alma 40:11; cf. Eccl. 12:7). Alma 2 describes how the spirits of the ‘righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles from all care and sorrow’ (Alma 40:12). In contrast the wicked, who ‘chose evil works rather than good,’ suffer fear of the wrath of God (Alma 40:13). Both who reside in paradise and those in the spirit prison await the resurrection and the judgement of God.”^{lxxxvi}

11. Endtimes/Eschatology: Mormons do believe in the second advent of Christ, however, there are some distinctive Mormon teachings – restoration of the Gospel (the Angel Moroni appearing to Joseph Smith, Jr.)^{lxxxvii};

Who Was the Real Joseph Smith?

Was Joseph Smith a true prophet of God? Is his saintly image justified? The facts of history and Smith's own life prove the answer to be no.

However, Mormons should not take our word for it. They should vigorously and impartially research the issue in a manner commensurate with its importance.

Who Was the Real Joseph Smith?

Mormons have claimed that the character of Joseph Smith was like that of Jesus Christ. However, the chart below shows the contrast between them:

Joseph Smith

Occult necromancer

Polytheistic

Polygamous

False prophet

Opposed government and laws

Egotistical, Immoral, Evil

Jesus Christ

God incarnate

Monotheistic

Monogamous (celibate)

True prophet

Obedied government and laws

Humble, Moral Righteous

Contrasting Mormon and Christian Belief Systems

Because Mormon theology diverges so far from Christian theology, it is easy to compare the beliefs of Mormonism with the beliefs of Christianity.

For anyone to maintain that Mormonism and Christianity teach the same thing is logically, historically, and doctrinally an indefensible position.

Class 7

The Bible

What is the Mormon view of the Bible?

The eighth "Article of Faith" We believe the Bible to be the word of God, as long as it is translated correctly." (1982 p.236)

1 Nephi 13:40 and the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records, which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY from them; and shall make known to all kindred's, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the eternal father

According to BYU professor Robert J. Matthews in his book "What the book of Mormon tells us about the Bible" he says Soon after the NT was written there were persons among the gentiles who systematically, with wicked motives and evil intent, removed portions of the sacred word, and took from the Bible much very important Doctrinal information..... In order to do this effectively two things were necessary:

1) It had to be done early, before there were multiple copies of the various books

2) It had to be an inside job by someone near the source, who had access to the original or earliest copies... In other words, the process began early, by the end of the first century, and continued in the second and third centuries A.D.

Mormon Apostle: Orson Pratt

"Who in his right mind, could, for one moment, suppose the Bible in it's present form to be a perfect guide? Who knows that even one verse of the Bible has escaped pollution?"

Robert Matthews again states:

" Many important concepts once in the Bible but now missing from it have been restored through the book of Mormon and other Latter-day revelations."

IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

The English word Bible is derived from the Greek word which means “roll” or “book”—actually a roll of papyrus (Lk 4:17; Dan 9:2).

The term *scripture* is used in the New Testament of the sacred books of the Old Testament which were regarded as inspired (2 Ti 3:16; and Ro 3:2) and also of other parts of the New Testament (2 Pe 3:16).

The phrase, “Word of God,” is used in the New Testament of both Old and New Testaments in written form (Mt 15:6, ASV; Jn 10:35; Heb 4:12). Each of these terms refers to the Book *par excellence*, the unique and recognized record of God’s revelation to man.

Some thirty-eight hundred times the Bible declares, “God said,” or “Thus says the Lord” (e.g. Ex. 14:1; 20:1; Lev. 4:1; Num. 4:1; Deut. 4:2; 32:48; Isa. 1:10, 24; Jer. 1:11; Ezek. 1:3; etc.).

The Bible contains 66 Books. 39 in the OT. 27 in the NT.

The Bible is a unique book. It was written over a period **of 1,500 years by about 40 different authors, on three different continents, in two different languages, and yet it is one book without contradictions in what it says.** And what it says is remarkable, for it speaks with equal ease and authority of the known and unknowable, of the pleasant and unpleasant, of man’s accomplishments and failures, of the past and the future. Few books ever attempt such scope; none is completely accurate except the Bible.

Paul also recognized that the things he was writing were the Lord’s commandments

1 Cor. 14:37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord, and they were acknowledged as such by the believers

1 Thess. 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Peter proclaimed the certainty of the Scriptures and the necessity of heeding the unalterable and certain Word of God

2 Pet. 1:16–21 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

John too recognized that his teaching was from God; to reject his teaching was to reject God

1 John 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error..

In response to those who would reject the above-mentioned argument, it should be noted that the writers who made those claims for the Scripture were trustworthy men who defended the integrity of the Scripture at great personal sacrifice

Inspiration

2 Peter 1:21 “moved” same word in Acts 27:17 When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis *Sands*, they struck sail and so were *driven*.

WHAT IS MEANT BY “INSPIRATION”?

Revelation concerns the material or content by which God is disclosed, and inspiration concerns the record of that content. Strictly speaking, inspiration means to fill or breathe into. In 2 Timothy 3:16 the word translated “inspiration” is more accurately “spiration,” that is, “Godbreathed.” In other words, the verse simply says that Scripture is God-produced and it does not actually indicate any of the means that God may have used in producing it.

OT – prophets 2 Sam. 23:2-3 Now these *are* the last words of David. *Thus* says David the son of Jesse; *Thus* says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word *was* on my tongue. The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: ‘He who rules over men *must be* just, Ruling in the fear of God.

Jer. 1:9 Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

THE PSALMIST SAID Ps.45:6 Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom.

GOD SAID Heb. 1:8 But to the Son *He says*: “Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your Kingdom.

Isa. 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matt. 1:22-23 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Ps.102:25,27 ————— Heb. 1:10-12

NT – John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

2 Peter 3:14-16

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

Jesus’ view of the Bible

Luke 16:31 “But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

Matt. 5:17-18 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

The Biblical Process^{lxxxviii}

The whole process of communication “from God to us” begins with the matter of divine revelation.

1. First, God spoke *to* the prophets. This was done “in many and various ways” (Heb. 1:1).
 - a. God sometimes spoke to the prophets by angels, as He did to Abraham in Genesis 18 and to Lot in Genesis 19.
 - b. God also spoke to the prophets in dreams (Dan. 7:1; cf. Num. 12:6).
 - c. Sometimes God used visions, as He did with Isaiah and Ezekiel (Isa.1:1; Ezek. 1:1; 8:3; 11:24; 43:3; cf. Hos. 12:10).
 - d. On occasion God used miracles to speak to the prophets for instance, Moses and the burning bush (Ex. 3:2); Gideon’s enterprise (Judg.6:37); and Jonah’s experiences (Jonah 1:1; 4:6 ff.).
 - e. Even nature was used to speak to the psalmist (Ps. 19:1).
 - f. Sometimes God spoke in an audible voice (1 Sam. 3:4).
 - g. No doubt the most common method God used was the inner voice of the individual’s conscience and communion with God. That is probably what is most often meant when the prophets write, “And the word of the Lord came unto me saying. . . .”
 - h. The priests discovered the will of God by means of the Urim and Thummim (Ex. 28:30; Num. 27:21).
 - i. Even casting lots was designated as a means by which God indicated His will (Prov. 16:33).
 - j. Finally, some of the prophets received divine communication from the study of other prophetic writings (Dan. 9:1-2).
2. God not only spoke *to* the prophets in various ways, but He spoke *in* their words whether written or oral (Heb. 1:1). That is, the prophets’ messages were God’s message; their voices were God’s voice. God was saying what they were saying; or, to put it more precisely, they were saying what God wanted said.

- a. This is verified in a general way by 2 Peter 1:21 and Hebrews 1:1, which indicate that the oral message of the prophets came from God; it was God’s word given through the prophets’ mouths. It is what David said in 2 Samuel 23:2: “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.” Jeremiah also cites God as saying, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth” (Jer. 1:9).
- b. This is borne out in particular by the prophetic formulas, as each prophet introduced his oral message by statements such as “Thus says the Lord,” “The word of the Lord,” “The Lord spoke” (see chaps. 4-6).

If every word of the Bible is inspired, does every copy, translation, or version of the Scriptures necessarily have to be inspired too? There are some who think so. But, here again, two extremes must be avoided.

“Every translation is inspired in the same sense as the original.” . . . lxxxix

“Only the autographs are inspired, not the translations.” If only the errorless autographs were God-breathed, and the

translators were not preserved from error, how can there be certainty about any passage of Scripture?...^{xc}

“Only the autographs were actually inspired, good copies are accurate.”^{xcii}

Even when the accuracy of a reading in the original *text* cannot be known with 100 percent accuracy, it is possible to be 100 percent certain of the *truth* preserved in the texts that survive. It is only in minor details that any uncertainty about the textual rendering exists, and no major doctrine rests on any one minor detail. A good translation will not fail to capture the overall teaching of the original. In this sense, then, a good translation will have doctrinal authority, although actual inspiration is reserved for the autographs.^{xciii}

It is also essential to note that only what the Bible teaches is inspired and without error; not every thing the Bible contains is errorless. For example, the Scriptures contain the record of many evil and sinful acts but do not commend any of these. Instead, they condemn such evils. The Bible records some of the lies of Satan (e.g., Gen. 3:4). It is not thereby teaching that these lies are true. The only thing that inspiration guarantees here is that this is a true record of a lie Satan told.^{xciii}

Predictive Prophecy

The Bible differs from all other Sacred writings.

Sold for thirty shekels:

Zech. 11:12 (6th Cent. B.C.)

Matt. 26:15 (A.D. 50)

Hands and feet pierced:

Ps. 22:16 (10th Cent. B.C. and later)

John 20:25 (A.D. 85-95)

Scourging and Death

Isa. 53:5 (8th Cent. B.C.)

John 19:1,18 (A.D. 85-95)

Archaeological Support for the Bible

Unlike the Book of Mormon, the Bible's accuracy and reliability has been proved and verified over and over again by both believing and nonbelieving scholars and scientists.^{xciv}

Nelson Glueck, a specialist in ancient literature, said, “It can be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.”^{xcv}

Bible scholar Donald J. Wiseman said, “The geography of Bible lands and visible remains of antiquity were gradually recorded until today more than 25,000 sites within this region and dating to OT times, in their broadest sense, have been located.”^{xcvi}

Manuscript Evidence

OT. The Dead sea Scrolls prove the accuracy of the transmission of the Bible. the scrolls were discovered at Qumran in 1947. The oldest OT Manuscripts we had prior to this find was A.D. 900, yet the Scrolls date back a thousand years earlier 150B.C.

Dr. Gleason Archer said “even though the two copies of Isaiah discovered in Qumran Cave 1 near the Dead Sea in 1947 were a thousand years earlier than the oldest dated manuscript previously known, they prove to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text.

NT. Over 24,000 partial and complete manuscript copies of the NT. There are also some 86,000 Quotations of the NT. From the early Church Fathers. And several thousand lectionaries (Church service books containing scripture “used in the early church centuries”.^{xcvii}

CANONICITY DETERMINED^{xcviii}

- 1) Was a book backed or written by a prophet or apostle of God? Dt 18:18; 2 pt 1:20-21; Gal.1:1-24
- 2) Is the book authoritative? Mk 1:22
- 3) Does the book tell the truth about God as it is already known by previous revelation? Acts 17:11; Gal. 1:8
- 4) Does the book give evidence of having the power of God? Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim 3:16
- 5) Was the book accepted by the people of God?

The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets“ (Eph. 2:20). Apostles, by their very office, were accredited spokesmen for God. It was they whom Jesus promised: ”The Holy Spirit ... will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you“ (John 14:26) and the Spirit of truth ... will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13). It was the “apostles’ teaching” in which the early church continued (Acts 2:42) and it was the apostles who were given special signs (miracles) to confirm their message (Heb. 2:3-4). Those confirmatory signs were given to other apostles than the twelve, such as the apostle Paul, who had “the signs of a true apostle” (2 Cor. 12:12). There was also the gift of prophecy (1 Cor. 12:10). Some “prophets,” such as Agabus, even gave messages from God to apostles (Acts 11:27-28). John the apostle considered himself one of “the prophets” (Rev. 22:9). So, in the New Testament as well as the Old, the determining factor in whether a book was canonical was its propheticity.

What about other “Gospels”

Thomas the Israelite philosopher’s account
Of the infancy of the lord.

1. I THOMAS, an Israelite, write you this account, that all the brethren from among the heathen may know the miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ in His infancy, which He did after His birth in our country. The beginning of it is as follows:—
2. This child Jesus, when five years old, was playing in the ford of a mountain stream; and He collected the flowing waters into pools, and made them clear immediately, and by a word alone He made them obey Him. And having made some soft clay, He fashioned out of it twelve sparrows. And it was the Sabbath when He did these things. And there were also many other children playing with Him. And a certain Jew, seeing what Jesus was doing, playing on the Sabbath, went off immediately, and said to his father Joseph: Behold, thy son is at the stream, and has taken clay, and made of it twelve birds, and has profaned the Sabbath. And Joseph, coming to the place and seeing, cried out to Him, saying: Wherefore doest thou on the Sabbath what it is not lawful to do? And Jesus clapped His hands, and cried out to the sparrows, and said to them: Off you go! And the sparrows flew, and went off crying. And the Jews seeing this were amazed, and went away and reported to their chief men what they had seen Jesus doing.
3. And the son of Annas the scribe was standing there with Joseph; and he took a willow branch, and let out the waters which Jesus had collected. And Jesus, seeing what was done, was angry, and said to him: O wicked, impious, and foolish! what harm did the pools and the waters do to thee? Behold, even now thou shalt be dried up like a tree, and thou shalt not bring forth either leaves, or root, or fruit. And straightway that boy was quite dried up. And Jesus departed, and went to Joseph’s house.

But the parents of the boy that had been dried up took him up, bewailing his youth, and brought him to Joseph, and reproached him because, said they, thou hast such a child doing such things.

4. After that He was again passing through the village; and a boy ran up against Him, and struck His shoulder. And Jesus was angry, and said to him: Thou shalt not go back the way thou camest. And immediately he fell down dead. And some who saw what had taken place, said: Whence was this child begotten, that every word of his is certainly accomplished? And the parents of the dead boy went away to Joseph, and blamed him, saying: Since thou hast such a child, it is impossible for thee to live with us in the village; or else teach him to bless, and not to curse: for he is killing our children.

5. And Joseph called the child apart, and admonished Him, saying: Why doest thou such things, and these people suffer, and hate us, and persecute us? And Jesus said: I know that these words of thine are not thine own; nevertheless for thy sake I will be silent; but they shall bear their punishment. And straightway those that accused Him were struck blind. And those who saw it were much afraid and in great perplexity, and said about Him: Every word which he spoke, whether good or bad, was an act, and became a wonder. And when they saw that Jesus had done such a thing, Joseph rose and took hold of His ear, and pulled it hard. And the child was very angry, and said to him: It is enough for thee to seek, and not to find; and most certainly thou hast not done wisely. Knowest thou not that I am thine? Do not trouble me.

What about the “Apocrypha”

Roman Catholics argue that the Apocryphal books,

1. The Wisdom of Solomon (c. 30 B.C.) 2. Ecclesiasticus (132 B.C.) 3. Tobit (c. 200 B.C.) 4. Judith (c. 150 B.C.) 5. 1 Esdras (c. 150-100 B.C.) 6. 1 Maccabees (c. 110 B.C.) 7. 2 Maccabees (c. 110-70 B.C.) 8. Baruch (c. 150-50 B.C.) 9. Letter of Jeremiah (c. 300-100 B.C.) 10. 2 Esdras (c. A.D. 100) 11. Additions to Esther (140-130 B.C.) 12. Prayer of Azariah (second or first century B.C.) (Song of Three Young Men) 13. Susanna (second or first century B.C.) 14. Bel and the Dragon (c. 100 B.C.) 15. Prayer of Manasseh (second or first century B.C.)

Arguments against accepting the apocrypha^{xcix}

1. There may be New Testament *allusions* to the Apocrypha, but there are no clear New Testament *quotations* from it. In any event, the New Testament never refers to any of the fourteen or fifteen apocryphal books as authoritative or canonical.
2. It is not certain that the Greek Old Testament, Septuagint (LXX), of the first century contained the Apocrypha. The earliest Greek manuscripts that include them date from the fourth century A.D.. Even if they were in the LXX of apostolic time, Jesus and the apostles implied their view of them by never once quoting them, although they are supposed to have been included in the very version of the Old Testament that they cited.
3. Citations of the church Fathers in support of the canonicity of the Apocrypha must be done with care.
4. Although some individuals in the early church had a high esteem for the Apocrypha, no council of the entire church during the first four centuries favored them, and there were many individuals who vehemently opposed them, for example, Athanasius, Cyril of Jerusalem, Origen, Jerome.
5. None of the great Greek manuscripts (a, A, and B) contain all of the Apocryphal books. In fact, only four (Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, and Ecclesiasticus) are found in all of them, and the oldest manuscript (Vaticanus) totally excludes the books of Maccabees. Furthermore, no Greek manuscript has the exact list of Apocryphal books accepted by the Council of Trent (1545-63).
6. The Council of Trent (1545-63) was the first official proclamation of the Roman Catholic church on the Apocrypha, and it came a millennium and a half after the books were written, in an obvious polemical action against Protestantism. Furthermore, the addition of books that support salvation by works and prayers for the dead at that time—only twenty-nine years after Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses—is highly suspect.
7. Apocryphal books appeared in Protestant Bibles prior to the Council of Trent, and were generally placed in a separate section because they were not considered to be of equal authority.

8. The discoveries at Qumran included not only the community's Bibles but their library with fragments of hundreds of books. Among those were some of the Old Testament apocryphal books. The fact that no commentaries were found on apocryphal books and that only canonical books, not the apocryphal, were found in the special parchment and script indicates that the apocryphal books were not viewed as canonical by the Qumran community.

The Apocrypha Contains Unbiblical Doctrines^c

The Apocrypha contains a number of un-biblical doctrines, such as the doctrine of the **Mass** (2 Macc. 12:42-45; compare with Heb. 7:27)

The notion that the world was created out of pre-existent matter (wisdom of Solomon; compare with Gen. 1, Ps. 33:9)

The idea that giving alms and other works can make an atonement for sin (Ecclesiasticus 3:3,30; 5:5; 20:28; 35:1-4; 45:16,23 compare with Ro. 3:20)

Purgatory and the redemption of souls after death (2 Macc. 12:42,45 compare with Heb. 9:27)

Therefore, all of the arguments urged in favor of the canonicity of the apocryphal books merely prove that these books have been given varied degrees of esteem and recognition, usually falling short of full canonicity, until the Roman Catholic church officially pronounced them canonical at the Council of Trent. That belated recognition falls far short of the initial and continued support accorded the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament. Hence, the overwhelming arguments in favor of rejecting the Apocrypha as part of the canon provide convincing evidence that the books are not God-breathed.^{ci}

cii

“...He [Jesus] was in the grave three days. During that time, He entered hell, where you and I deserved to go (legally) because of our sin...Jesus paid for our sins on the cross and went to hell in our place...When Jesus hung on the cross, He took our sin upon Himself. God cannot stay in the presence of sin. As Jesus took our sin, He was separated from the presence of the Father...There is no hope of anyone going to heaven unless they believe this truth. You cannot go to heaven unless you believe with all your heart that Jesus took your place. He became your substitute and took all the punishment you deserve. He bore all your sins. He paid the debt you owe...Jesus went to hell for *you*. He died for *you*. He paid for *your* sins. God was faithful to Jesus. God did what He told Jesus He would do. He raised Him from the dead. But until that happened, He was alone for three days satisfying the courts of justice and conquering the hosts of hell...” (pg 41-44)^{ciii}

My, you know. Ohh. The holy ghost is just showing me some stuff I'm getting dizzy. I'm telling you the truth. It's just heavy right now on me. He's in the underworld now. God is in there, the Holy Ghost is in there and the bible says that He was begotten. You know what the word begotten means? It means reborn. Do you want another shocker? Have you been begotten? So was He. Don't let anyone deceive you. Jesus was reborn. You say what are you talking about? He was reborn, he had to be reborn. If he was not reborn, I could not be reborn. Jesus was reborn again.. (Benny Hinn)

The thing that redeemed us was not Jesus being nailed to the cross. His spirit and soul went in to Hades. And He walked in through the door of Hades, satan was seated on his throne with a sickening grin on his face, his lip twisted in grotesque triumph and all the imps of hell were dancing a jig. And the word came, “We got him now! We defeated the plan of God!” and the devil was sitting there saying “I told you, if you'd follow me, I'd lead you to victory! We got Him now.” And they wrapped their grimy hands and the chains of hell itself around Jesus and they confined Him to one of the cells in the Hades section of the underworld. And then satan and his demon hosts went on a three-day drunk. They thought they had Him, they had defeated and thwarted the plan of Almighty God and Jesus sat there, as it were, immobile, not saying a word, not doing anything, except serving our sentence! (Fredrick kc Price)

Jesus had to go through the same spiritual death in order to pay the price, now it wasn't the physical death on the cross that paid the price for sin, because if it had of been any prophet of God that had died for the last couple of thousand years before that could have paid that price, it wasn't physical death any one could do that. He died for us. We died with him. He lives, we live with him. He was made sin with my sin, He went into hell and paid the price for that thing that I should have paid, that Adam should have paid really. He went through all that he suffered all that. I mean suffering until you read those accounts from the book of acts, I mean the book of Isaiah. The bible said that he was so marred and so twisted that he no longer resembled a man. He went through something that no human being can conceive of. We don't know, we don't have any idea what all he went through. He went in there made sin for us. He didn't commit sin - he received it. We didn't commit righteousness - we received it. He didn't commit sin, he received it. So we could receive his righteousness, but it's just as real. The only difference is that he suffered all sin. No man has ever committed all sin. But Jesus suffered all sin, all sickness, all disease, all poverty all the curse he bore the whole thing, he bore the root of sin and the nature of sin. He bore it to it's depth. I see it! He was the first one to ever be born again. I see it! I see it! A born again man defeated all of hell!!! Wooh. My God, I'm no less born again than he was. And people want to argue the theological question of whether Jesus died or not, I got no time to argue with you, go be still and know. (Kenneth Copeland)

...made to be sin. Now wait a minute, we just read that he was without sin. He was tempted but without sin. And the scripture says that he was made to be sin for us who knew no sin. That we might be made to the righteousness of god. Now hold on a minute. He had never sinned. Yet the scripture says that he was made sin. We had never done anything righteous. Yet the scripture says we were made righteous. You remember that serpent on the stick in Moses day? When people would come out and look upon it and be healed? Somehow Jesus has got to get to hell in order to get the keys that they stole from Adam in the garden of Eden. Now lucifer was in that garden illegally. Now somehow Jesus is gonna have to end up in hell illegally. But in order to get to hell he's got to, look like a sinner. Or they not going receive him into hell. You got to be a sinner. He gotta some how look like that serpent on that stick in Moses day. He gotta look like a serpent, in order to be taken in. how did god do it? Through the covenant that he made with man. Man, who had never did anything righteous. And Jesus, who had never sinned. Made an exchange with his covenant partner. He says let me wear your coat of sin, it'll make me look like a sinner. I had never sinned, but if I can put your coat of sin on, when I get back I'm going to give you my coat of righteousness. So The bible says that he who had not sinned was made sin. And hell looked up there and they couldn't figure out how but they said get him! So now Jesus entered in legally into hell. But he was there illegally. Cuz once you get to hell there's got to be some record of your sin. Now he had to stay there 3 days and 3 nights because that's what his word said. Jesus said tear this temple down and in 3 days I'll raise it up again. Some of you all said what? Jesus went to hell, well acts chapter 2 says that he suffered the pains of hell. You better hope he went to hell because if he didn't go you and I would have to. You better hope he became every sickness disease and depression and every piece of mess in the world because whatever he didn't become you and I would have to become. So after the 3rd day is up he decides to take the coat off. And of course when he took it off, light. And all of hell began to look and said "oh my god, that's the one that created us, that's the one that created us." You know the book of Isaiah says that I created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire. That's the one who created us. They went oh my goodness, oh my goodness. And there's Jesus right in the pit of hell. Grabbin the devil by his collar, and say you remember when you came into my garden illegally? Well I'm in hell illegally and I come to take the keys of authority that I gave to Adam and I want every key but he said I not only want the key you took from Adam I want the key that you took for all of my children. That had to take on this sin, I'm here to set them all free. Oooh son. Then on the 3rd day Jesus, oh lord, (tongues) listen to this, was the first born again man. He was born hallelujah, hallelujah, he was born from death to life. Somebody said what happened? Well, he was born from life to death, then in hell was born from death to life and was raised up from the dead as the first fruit of many brethren. That would be raised up after him. (Copeland)

Class 9

Generational Curses?

Premise: Generational Curses exists:

This idea has been around for a long time. the idea that your parents, grand parents, and even great grandparents sins are “passed down” to the 3rd or 4th generation (Ex. 20:1-6) Does the scripture paint this picture or is it another Non-Biblical (eisegesis, reading into the text what is not there) teaching that has no bearing on the believers life.

Now let me qualify what is NOT being said here. I am not saying that there aren't any connections (genetically) to your family tree. This is a medical fact. But according to the Generational Curse proponents this is evidence of Generational Curses and or demons rather than genetics. Marylyn Hickey states “The mother of a woman on our staff died of an asthma-like condition. Sure enough, this woman began to suffer the same symptoms which had killed her mother. She began to have the same old junk and garbage start destroying her health. **I believe that an evil spirit of disease had attacked the mother; and then when she died, he waited for the next generation to attack again.** When weakness comes down, the enemy comes down and attacks.”^{civ}(Emphasis Mine)

Also, I am not saying that Sins committed by parents and grand parents do not have an effect on their families. But this is not a curse or a demon! Sin has its consequences, yes but to say that if your father was a molester you will have a Generational Curses and molest your kids, that is un-biblical. That sounds more like psychology rather than Christianity. We are new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). We all have the propensity to sin but can a Christian be cursed? What does the Bible say?

Quotes:

Here are some quotes of Generational Curse proponents.

Marilyn Hickey in her book **Break the Generation Curse** Says “Do you want to be blessed? Do you want your children to be blessed? When you give place to God in your life, you open yourself to His blessing. However, if you of one of your ancestors have given place to the devil, your family may be under a “generational curse” which could passed down to your children. **DON'T ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO BE DEVoured BY THE DEVIL THROUGH GENERATIONAL CURSES!** The sins of the fathers can be passed down from one generation to the next, over and over and over. Is there a history of cancer... poverty... alcoholism... allergies... heart disease... child abuse... obesity... adultery... poor self-image in your family? These are family characteristics which actually are family curses. **BUT THESE CURSES CAN BE BROKEN!**”^{cv}

Again she says “So the Bible says that some negative hereditary things are curses. Curses always start with sin, for “...the curse causeless shall not come” (proverbs 26:20). sin takes a number of forms: worshiping other gods (such as money or career) ...a lust for power...rebellious children ...cruelty ...violence... sexual sins: “... he that commetteth fornication sinneth against his own body” (1 corinthians 6:18). Sexual sin is the worst kinds of curses because of what it does to a person. Adultery not only hurts you physically, but it leaves scar tissue on your soul. Then your children have the same weakness, and then your grandchildren and your great-grandchildren.”^{cvi}

Troy Morgan in his pamphlet **Generational Curses The Bondage Stops Here** States in the preface “Please keep in mind that this booklet is written specifically to open your eyes to those curses that lie within our lives slowly destroying us and our faith in God...I do recommend that you face the sins of your past and your ancestors past that will directly affect your future”^{cvii}

Again he says “Even in the midst of being changed and bound by generational curses, we are still being blessed. Now you must ask yourself, is this good enough? Is it enough for me and my family to accept the crumbs the Lord our God casts in our direction, or do I want to come up to the table feast? God invites you to feast with Him in His presence, “there were in great fear: for the Lord is in the generation of the righteous.” (Psalm 14:5). You cannot break generational curses on your own. They are not broken with time, hope, voodoo dolls, or hype. They are broken through much prayer, a healthy fear of God, and faith. We cannot break them without the help of God from whom we seek guidance, wisdom, knowledge and have an alignment of wills.”^{cviii}

Stormie Omartian in her book **The Power of a Praying Parent** says “The next thing to do is identify any bondage in your parents or grandparents that you feel could be affecting you and your children and pray about that also.”^{cix}

Again in giving a prayer for your child she states “I pray that my son (daughter) will not inherit any bondage from his (her) earthly family, but will “inherit the kingdom prepared for him (her) from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34)^{cx}

Scriptures used for:

Ex 20:1-6

Gen. 9:20-27

Prov. 26:2

Hab. 2:15-16

This premise derives from the book of Exodus chapter 20 and verses 1-6, it states “*And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. “You shall have no other gods before Me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”*”

Of course this looks like solid evidence that Generational curses exist, but to whom do these curses affect. Notice the context: First of all this is the Ten Commandments. Now lets break this down. The children of Israel are going into the promise land (or so they think). Moses has gone up Mt. Sinai and is receiving the Commandments. God is dealing with the future temptations the children of Israel will face (idol worship, covetousness etc). “***You shall not have any gods before me***” This is a prohibition against the worship of many gods (polytheism) or against the worship of any other god except Jehovah.^{cxii}

Ok at the end of verse 5 it states “***visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations.***” But you see, if we stop there we have missed the context. Read on “***the third and fourth generations*** of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Of those who “HATE ME.” You see! This is a warning of love. Does a Christian then receive a Generational Curse if his or hers parents had sinned?

The psychology connection-Codependency: **co·de·pen·den·cy** \-d' n(t)-se\\ *noun*

a psychological condition or a relationship in which a person is controlled or manipulated by another who is affected with a pathological condition (as an addiction to alcohol or heroin)

Ezekiel 18:1-32

The word of the LORD came to me again, saying,

“What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge?’

“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel.

“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

But if a man is just And does what is lawful and right;

If he has not eaten on the mountains, Nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, Nor defiled his neighbor’s wife, Nor approached a woman during her impurity;

If he has not oppressed anyone, But has restored to the debtor his pledge; Has robbed no one by violence, But has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing;

If he has not exacted usury Nor taken any increase, But has withdrawn his hand from iniquity And executed true judgment between man and man;

If he has walked in My statutes And kept My judgments faithfully— He is just; He shall surely live!” Says the Lord GOD.

“If he begets a son who is a robber Or a shedder of blood, Who does any of these things

And does none of those duties, But has eaten on the mountains Or defiled his neighbor’s wife;

If he has oppressed the poor and needy, Robbed by violence, Not restored the pledge, Lifted his eyes to the idols, Or committed abomination;

If he has exacted usury Or taken increase— Shall he then live? He shall not live! If he has done any of these abominations, He shall surely die; His blood shall be upon him.

“If, however, he begets a son Who sees all the sins which his father has done, And considers but does not do likewise;

Who has not eaten on the mountains, Nor lifted his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, Nor defiled his neighbor’s wife;

Has not oppressed anyone, Nor withheld a pledge, Nor robbed by violence, But has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing;

Who has withdrawn his hand from the poor And not received usury or increase, But has executed My judgments And walked in My statutes— He shall not die for the iniquity of his father; He shall surely live!

“As for his father, Because he cruelly oppressed, Robbed his brother by violence, And did what is not good among his people, Behold, he shall die for his iniquity.

“Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?’ Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live.

“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

“But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

“None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.

“Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?

“But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die.

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair?

“When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies.

“Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive.

“Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

“Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.

“Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

“For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”

Duet.7:9-11 *“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; “and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. “Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.*

Forgiveness

Forgiveness - the act of excusing or pardoning others in spite of their slights, shortcomings, and errors. As a theological term, forgiveness refers to God’s pardon of the sins of human beings.

No religious book except the Bible teaches that God completely forgives sin (Ps. 51:1, 9; Is. 38:17; Heb. 10:17). The initiative comes from Him (John 3:16; Col. 2:13) because He is ready to forgive (Luke 15:11-32). He is a God of grace and pardon (Neh. 9:17; Dan. 9:9).^{cxii}

Sin deserves divine punishment because it is a violation of God’s holy character (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Pet. 1:16), but His pardon is gracious (Ps. 130:4; Rom. 5:6-8). In order for God to forgive sin, two conditions are necessary. A life must be taken as a substitute for that of the sinner (Lev. 17:11, 14; Heb. 9:22), and the sinner must come to God’s sacrifice in a spirit of repentance and faith (Mark 1:4; Acts 10:43; James 5:15).

Matt. 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matt. 18:23-35 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. “And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. “But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. “The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ “Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denari; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ “So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ “And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. “So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. “Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ‘Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ “And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Repentance

Repentance — a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God (Matt. 9:13; Luke 5:32). In a more general sense, repentance means a change of mind (Gen. 6:6–7) or a feeling of remorse or regret for past conduct (Matt. 27:3). True repentance is a “godly sorrow” for sin, an act of turning around and going in the opposite direction. This type of repentance leads to a fundamental change in a person’s relationship to God.

In the Old Testament the classic case of repentance is that of King David, after Nathan the prophet accused him of killing Uriah the Hittite and committing adultery with Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba. David’s prayer of repentance for this sin is found in Psalm 51.

In the New Testament the keynote of John the Baptist’s preaching was, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2). To the multitudes he declared, “Bear fruits worthy of repentance” (Matt. 3:8; Luke 3:8). When Jesus began His ministry, He took up John’s preaching of the message of repentance, expanding the message

to include the good news of salvation: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel” (Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:15)^{cxiii}

Matt. 3:8-9 “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, “and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Rom. 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

2 Cor. 7:9-10 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2 Tim 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will

Binding and loosing

Matt. 12:29 *“Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”*

Matt. 12:43 *“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. “Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. “Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”*

Matt.16:19 *“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Matt. 18:18 *“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

Neutral Practice:

Someone might say that this a neutral practice that can be used either for good or for evil. This is the same logic used in magic. White witches say that they use magic for good and black witches say they use magic for evil. The Bible say to do things Gods way not any extra-biblical way.^{cxiv}

Christ’s Conflict

Demonic-related material occurs on 11 occasions in the first three Gospels. It is helpful to notice the following breakdown of this material. Three general statements about casting out demons:^{cxv}

1. Matt. 12:24 *they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.* Cross reference: (Mk. 3:10; Lk. 6:17-19).
2. Matt. 8:16 *When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,*
3. Luke 7:21 *And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.*

Ok what was the purpose of these events?

The purpose of these events was to demonstrate that Jesus was the Son of God, as some of the demons were testifying. Lk. 4:41 *And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of God!” And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.* This is consistent with the purpose of the first three Gospels: to demonstrate that Jesus was the Messiah because He had power and authority over the demonic realm.^{cxvi} Look at Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”* Jesus was suppose to have victory over satan.

Jesus said quite often “the works testify of who I am”. (Matt. 11:2-6; John 10:32-38, 14:11-12,)

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