

**Mixed Apologetic
Approaches: How to be an
MMA Witness for Christ**

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

01.23.13

Francis Schaeffer

“I do not believe there is any one apologetic which meets the needs of all people. And, as I said in the text of *The God Who Is There*, I did not (and do not) mean that what I wrote in that book...should ever be applied mechanically as a set formula. There is no set formula that meets everyone’s need, and if only applied as a mechanical formula, I doubt if it really meets anyone’s need — short of an act of God’s mercy.”

- Francis A. Schaeffer, *The God Who is There: The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer: A Christian Worldview* (Westchester: Crossway Books, 1982), in Logos Library System [CD-ROM].

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

²¹ *To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.*



1) The Classical Method

- **2-step process**

First, establish the existence of God

**Second, connect the existence of God
with the identity of God: Theism to
Christianity**

- **Strong emphasis on reason**

The Classical Arguments for the Existence of God

- 1) *Kalam Cosmological Argument (Origins)*
- 2) *Teleological Argument (Fine tuning)*
- 3) *Moral Argument*
- 4) *Ontological Argument*

Kalam Cosmological Argument

- 1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause***
- 2. The universe began to exist***
- 3. Therefore, the universe has a cause***

Cosmological Argument from Entropy

- 1. If the universe were eternal and its amount of energy finite, it would have reached heat death by now.***
- 2. The universe has not reached heat death (since there is still energy available for use).***
- 3. Therefore, (a) the universe is not eternal.***
- 4. Therefore, (b) the universe had a beginning.***
- 5. Therefore, (c) the universe was created by a first cause (God).***

Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 226.

Teleological Argument: Fine-tuning

- Jeremiah 10:12 *“It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.”*

Probability & Gravity...

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda &= 2.221 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m} \\
 m_e &= 9.109 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg} \\
 m_p &= 1.673 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg} \\
 \hbar &= 1.054 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$M = m \cdot c^2$$

$$c = 299792458 \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

Teleological Argument: Fine-tuning

- 1) *The cosmos is designed*
- 2) *Signs of design are evident*
- 3) *These signs point toward the Designer*
- 4) *It does not claim that all structures & processes of this designed creation now exhibit perfection.*

**Creation+Fall.....+Redemption+Glorification*

Moral Argument for God's Existence

- 1) If God does not exist then objective moral values & duties do not exist.***
- 2) Objective moral values & duties do exist.***
- 3) God exists.***

Ontological Argument

- *Have fun researching!*
- *<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/misunderstanding-the-ontological-argument>*

2) The Evidential Method

- ***One step process: Establish the Resurrection and you also establish the existence of God.***
- ***Use skeptical data: What do virtually all scholars agree upon?***
 - 1) Jesus was a historical figure***
 - 2) He was crucified by the Romans***
 - 3) There was an empty tomb***
- ***Q: Unless you are biased, what is the most logical explanation of the data?***

Objection!!!!

- ***Objection! But the Bible is untrustworthy!***
- ***Response: First, we don't need the Bible to establish the life, death, and empty tomb of Jesus. Second, if you throw out the Bible as unreliable you're deleting the best manuscript evidence of the ancient world. There are over 24k NT manuscript fragments plus the Dead Sea Scrolls of the OT. There are only 600+ ancient copies of Homer's Iliad & that's as good as it gets outside the Bible. So if you throw out the Bible, you throw out all of ancient history. Is that reasonable?***

- **Galatians 4:4-5** *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

3) The Presuppositional Method

- **Unbelief, not lack of evidence, is the result of sin - Romans 1:21 *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.***
- **The Fall & the noetic effects of sin (effects of sin on thinking processes).**
- **My presupposition/assumption is that God's Word is true.**

Objection

- **Non-Christian objection: Mr/Mrs/Miss Christian, You're guilty of circular reasoning! How can you ask me to believe your presuppositions?**
 - **Response: How can you ask me to abandon my presuppositions and hold to yours? You claim you are reasonable but how can you trust your ability to reason properly if God doesn't exist?**
- *Show them that they are not exempt from assuming certain beliefs to be true.**

- ***“But does this God exist? At some level of our consciousness, we know that he does. We assume, for example, that the laws of logic and mathematics are universally and necessarily true. $2+2=4$ does not just happen to be true; it *must* be true. And it is not true only in our part of the universe, but in every part. Now there is nothing in matter, motion, time, and chance that accounts for such universal necessity. But a personal God, who himself is logical, will naturally create a world that reflects his own perfect thought. Our assumption about logic fits the personal model of the universe, not the impersonal.”***

- John Frame *Five Views on Apologetics, p.226*

4) The Reformed Epistemology Approach

Claim: *I don't need evidence to believe in God. Why shouldn't belief in God be among the Properly Basic Beliefs?*

Properly Basic Beliefs:

- ***There are minds other than my own.***
- ***The universe was not created 5 mins ago w/the appearance as age.***
- ***You are listening to a talk on Apologetics.***
- ***Chuck Norris is a beast.***

3 Reasons why it is rational to believe in God without the necessity of arguments

- 1) Few people have access to our theistic arguments**
- 2) It seems God has given us an awareness of Himself that is not dependent upon theistic arguments**
- 3) Belief in God is more like belief in a person than belief in a scientific theory**

4) The Reformed Epistemology Approach

- *“Reasoning must start somewhere. There have to be some truths that we can just accept and reason from. Why not start with belief in God?” Kelly James Clark p.271*
- *Sensus divinitatis ‘sense of the divine’*
- *What does it mean to base my life on something ‘merely plausible’? = We do that with virtually every belief.*
- *p.273*

What about Properly Basic Beliefs and other Religions?

- *False claims to properly basic beliefs does not invalidate true claims to a true properly basic belief.*
- **mislabeled water bottles = false claims*
- *Find a way to convince them that their belief is not properly basic. Find common ground to argue evidences that would be a defeater to their false 'properly basic beliefs.'*
- *False beliefs crack under the weight of evidence.*

5) The Synthesis Method

- ***Using all of the above for the glory of God.***