

Apologetics

— MINI-CONFERENCE —

Lovingly Engaging Our
Community & Culture





Table of Contents

SCHEDULE	pg. 3
QUESTIONS	pg. 4
MAPS	pg. 5
PLENARY SESSION	pg. 7
SESSION 1	pg. 9
SESSION 2	pg. 13
SESSION 3	pg. 17
NOTES	pg. 23



Schedule

- 8:30 CHECK-IN & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 9:00 PLENARY SESSION
WORSHIP CENTER
- 10:15 BREAK
- 10:45 SESSION 1: DR. DANIEL DEWITT
WORSHIP CENTER
- 11:45 LUNCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 1:15 SESSION 2: DR. BOB STEWART
WORSHIP CENTER
- 2:15 BREAK
- 2:45 SESSION 3: DR. ADAM HUGHES
WORSHIP CENTER
- 3:45 BREAK
- 4:00 PANEL DISCUSSION/Q&A
WORSHIP CENTER

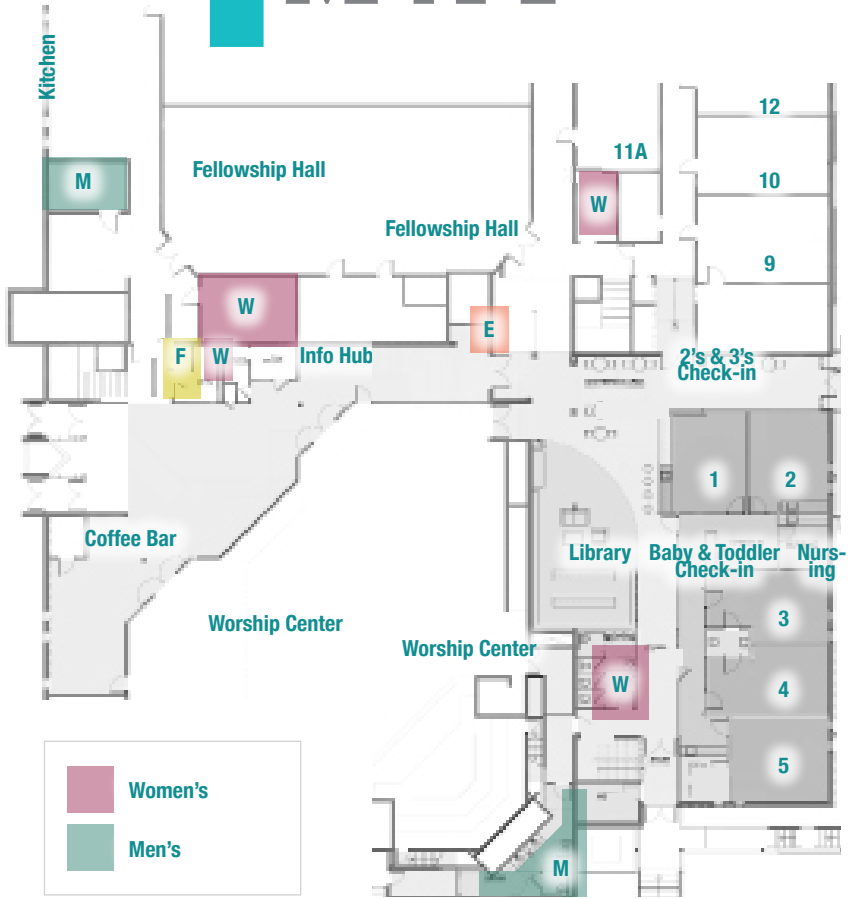
• Questions

Got Questions?

Text **"ASK"** to 417-282-8322
or go to fbcbolivar.org/ask and
submit a question.

Maps

1 FLOOR MAP



2 FLOOR MAP



PLENARY SESSION

DR. BOB STEWART

Matthew 5:43-45

Matthew 19: 3-6

1Samuel 18:1

Leviticus 18:22-23

Leviticus 20:13

Romans 1:26-28

1 Corinthians 6:9-11



NARNIA STYLE APOLOGETICS

**HOW C.S. LEWIS TOLD PEOPLE
ABOUT JESUS | DR. DANIEL DEWITT**

The beloved Christian author C.S. Lewis used a variety of methods to share his faith, from his wartime radio talks to books about space travel and talking lions. This session will give an overview of Lewis's evangelistic and apologetics methods and include a Q&A.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE NEW ATHEISM

DR. BOB STEWART

The Core Beliefs of the New Atheism

1. Science and religion are _____ ways of looking at life.
2. Faith is a _____ based on the denial of _____.
3. _____ is inherently _____.

Characteristic Practices of the New Atheism

1. They have a superficial _____ of the _____.
2. They are _____ novices.
3. They are primarily _____, especially anti-_____ and anti-_____.
4. They are “_____” (Darwinian scientific materialism).

Why I Am Not a Naturalist

1. I am not a Naturalist because Naturalism is _____ - _____.
2. I am not a Naturalist because Naturalism _____ human _____.
3. I am not a Naturalist because Naturalism _____ human _____ and _____.

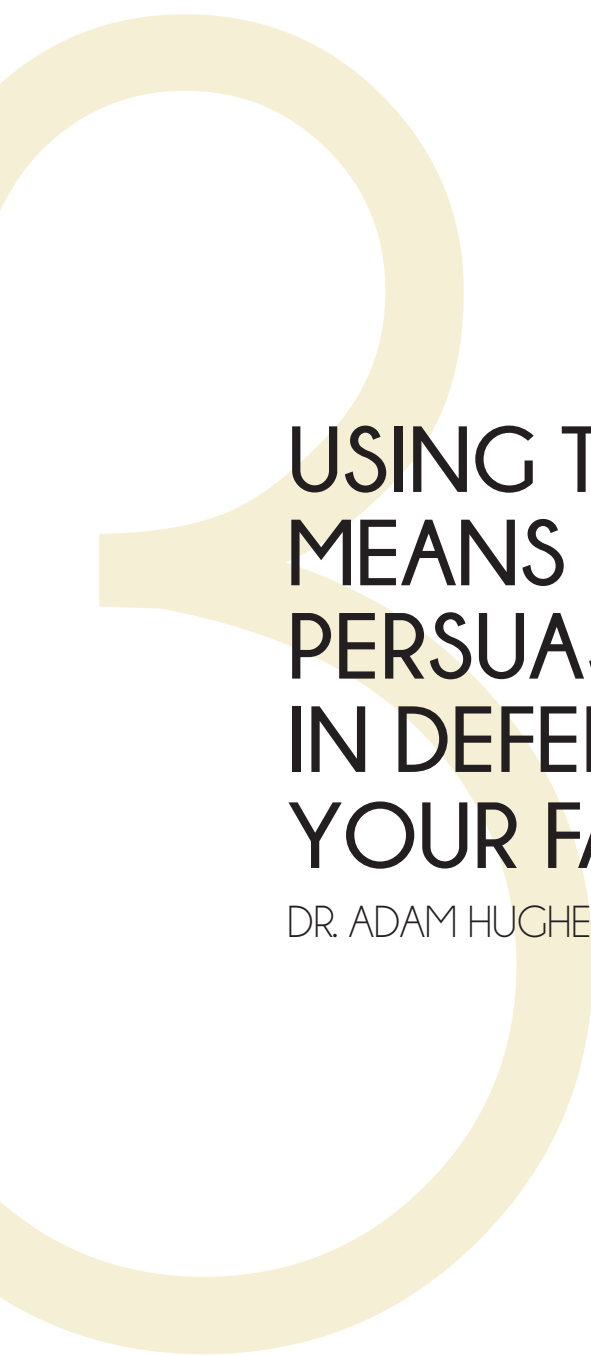
4. I am not a Naturalist because Naturalism _____
_____.

5. I am not a Naturalist because Naturalism _____
human _____.

6. I am not a Naturalist because Naturalism cannot _____
for _____.

7. I am not a Naturalist because Naturalism cannot _____
for _____ and human _____.

Worldview Comparison	
Naturalism	Christian Theism
Can only allow what the scientific method can measure	Accepts the scientific method but includes other ways of knowing
Diminishes human reason by focusing upon the function rather than the truth of our beliefs	Expects human reason because we are made in the image of an omniscient God
Undermines human free will	Expects free will because God is free
Undermines morality by denying free will	Undergirds morality by affirming free will
Undermines human relationality by reducing it to a biological function	Human relationality is grounded in the Trinitarian God
Cannot account for human consciousness since it is not physical	Human consciousness is grounded in God who is pure consciousness
Cannot account for beauty or human creativity	Beauty and human creativity is grounded in the image of God



USING THE MEANS OF PERSUASION IN DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

DR. ADAM HUGHES

Introduction

- The Basis of a Christian Apology
 - “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.” (1 Pt 3:15)
- This passage uses the Greek word from where we get our English word “apology.”
 - Apologia = Defense
- Notice in this verse there are at least three considerations for making an “apology”
 - Us and our character – sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts; hope that is in you; yet with gentleness and reverence.
 - The apology itself – always ready to make a defense; to give an account for the hope that is in you.
 - Those we are giving the apology to – to everyone who asks you.
- We want to give special attention to each of these and their roles in being persuasive in defending the faith.

A Brief History Lesson on Rhetoric and Its Use for Persuasion

- Definition: The art of delivering a persuasive public speech.
- For our purposes, perhaps a better description would be composing and delivering a persuasive discourse
- “According to John Henry Freese, the island of Sicily is the birthplace of rhetoric.”
- It primarily was used as a means to make arguments in “court cases” perhaps as early as 467 BC.

- Essentially the Study of Rhetoric did not create persuasive speech but observed how language and persuasion works.
- Then how language is used and works was cataloged so that we can use it effectively for persuasion.
- Rhetoric is neither inherently good or evil, but can be used for either good, or godly, or evil purposes.
- There are two basic ways that Rhetoric developed and was used for argumentation/persuasion.
- One is the component parts or make-up of any speech (Cicero c. 106-43 BC):
 - Invention
 - Arrangement
 - Style
 - Memory
 - Delivery
- These are known as the Five Canons of Rhetoric
- The other is what is known as the means of persuasion made famous by the Greek philosopher Aristotle (c. 106-43 BC):
 - Ethos – “character”: This refers to the distinguishing character or credibility of the speaker or apologist.
 - Logos – “word”: This refers to the content of the apology itself or the appeal to logic, essentially what is being argued for.
 - Pathos -- “emotion” or “passion”: This refers to the emotion that is attempted to be produced in the experience of the listener.
- All specifics of persuasion fall into one of these three broad categories: who is saying it, what is being said, and how they are saying it.

- For our purposes today, we want to look at how to use each of these in defending our faith.

The Importance of Ethos

- Ethos – “character”: This refers to the distinguishing character or credibility of the speaker or arguer.
- Aspects which are important for establishing ethos:
 - Your Moral Character
 - Your Possession of Virtues
 - Your Observable Life
 - Your Respect for the Hearer(s)
 - Ultimately, Your Walk with God
- “No matter what means you use for sharing the Gospel, there is one ingredient that it must have . . . A transformed life!”
- This aspect of persuasion lends itself more to apologetics when used in an already established relationship, but it is important for a believer to be mindful of these things any time her or she is defending the faith.

The Importance of Logos

- Logos – “word”: This refers to the content of the apology itself or the appeal to logic, essentially what is being argued for.
- Aspects which are important for using logos:
 - Learn to ask questions and listen to the answers. This way you can know the other person’s perspective and make sure that you are responding to the right question/objection.
 - Defend the truth instead of attacking the other person.

- Understand the distinction yet relationship between such concepts as claims, support, evidence, and proof.
- Be a critical observer of culture so that you can use examples of argumentation that your hearers validate in their every-day lives when possible.
- Commit yourself to reading and knowing the Gospel and the Word of God itself. The Bible is an inherently logical book and the Bible ask and answers many of the same questions which are being asked today.

The Importance of Pathos

- Pathos -- “emotion” or “passion”: This refers to the emotion that is attempted to be produced in the experience of the listener.
- Aspects which are important for using pathos:
 - Emotion is not logic but sometimes in persuasion it is the most powerful tool. Use this knowledge to your advantage but do not attempt to manipulate your hearer.
 - Exhibit genuine care and respect for the other person.
 - Listen to them; allow them time to talk
 - Do not engage in what is known as ad hominem attacks
- Display ”passion” yourself – do you believe it yourself; has it changed your life?
- But even more importantly, display “compassion”
- Do not be afraid to give an invitation to trust Christ if the opportunity presents itself. Remember the goal is not to win an argument but to win a soul for Christ.

The Top Ten List

For Using Persuasion in Apologetics

1. Exhibit a Christ-like Demeanor at all time.
2. Maintain an attitude of respect for the other person.
3. Ask questions and listen for answers.
4. Do not engage in personal attacks or insults.
5. Affirm the value of the person while never compromising Truth.
6. Show that you deeply believe and have been changed by what you are defending.
7. Be as compassionate for the person as you are passionate about the subject matter.
8. Use logic and real-life argumentation when possible.
9. Read the Bible and be a committed student of Scripture.
10. Know that the Good News for the other person is the ultimate goal of the encounter.

The End of Christian Apologetics

- “When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things” (Mark 6:34)
- “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- “I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22)

