

## **DEFENDING OUR HOPE: APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM (2)**

### **DISCUSS WHILE WAITING TO BEGIN:**

Look at the seven questions below. As a Christian how would you answer each one? If time permits consider how a specific non-believing friend would answer them.

### **1. THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO LIVE (OR TWO “WORLDVIEWS”)**

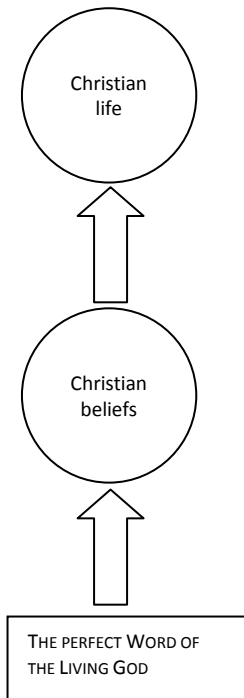
- **What is a worldview?**

James Sire: “A worldview is a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic makeup of our world... They are generally unquestioned by each of us, rarely, if ever, mentioned by our friends, and only brought to mind when we are challenged by a foreigner from another ideological universe.” (*The universe next door: a basic worldview catalog*, pp16,17)

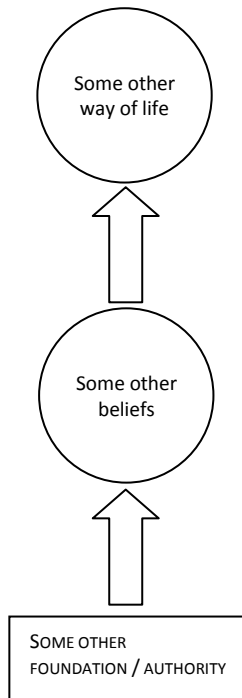
1. What is REAL? (e.g. God / gods / the stuff that the universe is made of)
2. What is the world around us LIKE? (e.g. created / chaotic / orderly / separate from us / connected to us)
3. What is a HUMAN BEING? (e.g. a machine / a god / a naked ape / a person in God’s image)
4. What happens to a person AT DEATH? (e.g. extinction / reincarnation / etc)
5. How can we KNOW anything at all? (e.g. our minds have evolved / made in God’s image, etc)
6. How do we know what’s RIGHT & WRONG? (e.g. from God / choice / etc)
7. What is the meaning of HUMAN HISTORY? (e.g. achieve the purpose of God or of gods / no purpose / etc)

- **The two ways to live** (HT: Paul Clarke)...

Living with Jesus as Lord



The way of the world



“Living with Jesus as Lord”...

“The way of the world”

- **THINK: try to understand ourselves and our friends**

Ourselves and the Gospel worldview...

Our non-believing friends...

Apologetics = attacking non-belief and commending faith in Jesus

The two great questions

- Is it true? (Is it intellectually credible?)
- Is it good? (Truly good... in your personal experience. Is it existentially satisfying).

## **2. ATTACKING UNBELIEF**

- **Unbelief = living life with the assumption that Jesus is NOT Lord**

- **Is it OK to attack anything?**

Peter 3:16, gentleness and respect

Necessary negatives, e.g. John 14:6

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

- **Attacking unbelief – show that it is UNTRUE and it is NOT GOOD**

- |       |                              |  |
|-------|------------------------------|--|
| (i)   | It's implausible             | e.g. Why do you believe that?              |
| (ii)  | It's inconsistent and wrong? | e.g. Didn't you just say there's no right  |
| (iii) | It's impractical like that?  | e.g. Do you really want to live in a world |

### **3. PROCLAIMING BELIEF IN JESUS**

- **Defending Christ against detractors...**
  
- **AND declaring Christ as Lord, from the Scriptures**

Answer questions directly from the Bible – and use our society’s respect for Jesus as a good teacher. E.g.

I’m a good person, why do I need Jesus?  
(Mark 10:13-27, 12:28-31, John 3:1-16)

Do you think there’s truth in all the religions of the world?  
(Mark 2:1-12, John 14:5-10)

I’m a cynic by nature – I won’t believe without proof.  
(John 20:24-31)

I’m just not the religious type  
(Mark 2:13-17, Luke 19:1-10)

### **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

Getting into the Bible with a friend.

Mark’s Gospel – *Christianity Explored*  
Luke’s Gospel – UCCF Uncover material  
John’s Gospel – “The Word 1-2-1”

Thinking about unbelief and apologetics

The universe next door: a basic worldview catalog, *James Sire*  
Apologetics to the glory of God, *John Frame*  
The reason for God, *Timothy Keller*  
If you could ask God one question, *Paul Williams and Barry Cooper*