

# Christian Evidences

# Purpose

- Strengthen our faith
- Give us confidence
- Move us from anger/anxiety to pity
- Equip us to defend our faith
  - Be aware of your audience

# Areas of Study

- Natural Theology
  - The Nature of Evidence
  - The Cosmological Arguments (2)
  - The Teleological Argument
  - The Moral Argument
  - The Ontological Argument
  - The Argument from Reason
  - Pascal's Wager

# Areas of Study

- Arguments against the existence of God
  - Lack of evidence
  - Poor design
  - Problem of evil
- Science and Religion
  - What is Science?
  - What is Evolution?
  - The evidence for and against evolution

# Areas of Study

- The Reliability of Scripture
  - The Coherence of Scripture
    - Difficulties vs contradictions
  - Witness
  - Archaeology/History
  - The tri-lemma



*Philosophy*

# Justification

- Col. 2:8
  - Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.
- 1 Peter 3:15
  - 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

# Example

- Acts 17
  - 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” 21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.



# Groundwork

Challenge – Add scripture

What is Philosophy?

The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence

Metaphysics – What is real? What exists?

Logic – What is correct thinking?

Epistemology – What can I know?

Aesthetics – What is beautiful?

Theology – What is man's relationship with God?

Ethics – What is man's relationship with his fellow man?

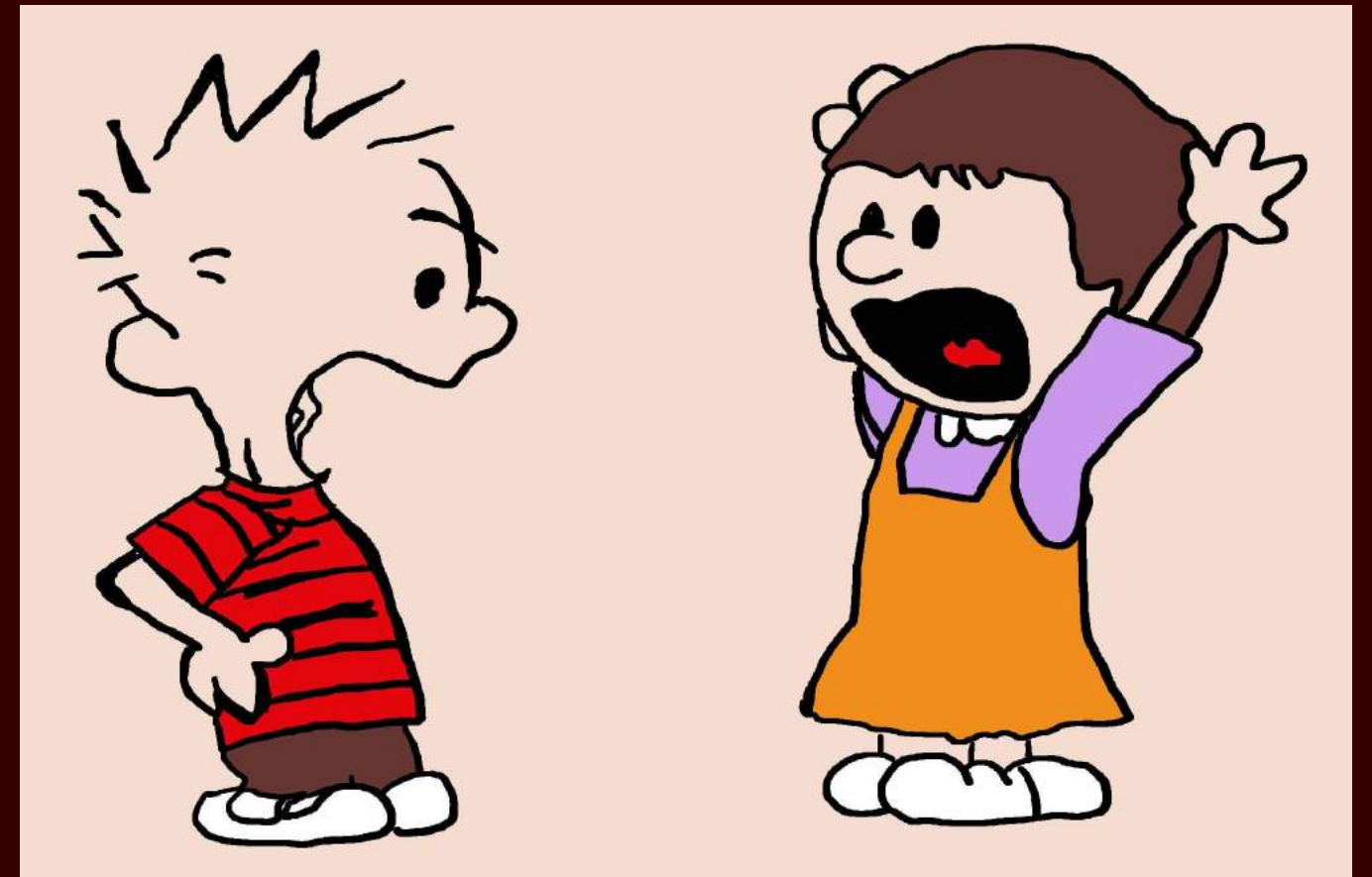
Politics – What is man's relationship with the State?

Systematic Theology vs. Natural Theology

# Arguments and Logic

- 1) All things with feathers can fly
- 2) Brad has feathers
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Brad can fly

- $P \rightarrow Q$
- $P$
- \_\_\_\_\_
- $Q$



# Valid vs. Sound Arguments

- All invalid arguments are unsound
  - A valid argument is unsound if at least one of the premises are false
  - A sound argument has true premises and a valid structure
  - Proof vs. Probability
    - Is the premise more likely true than false?
- 1 Cor. 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness

# Tennis match arguments

- Propose an argument
- Check its validity
- Analyze each proposition – the tennis match

# Fallacies

- Formal Fallacies
  - Begging the question
    - The soul is immortal
    - It lives forever
    - It does not die
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - The soul is immortal
- Appeal to Authority
- Ad hominem
- Ad populum

# Do we need evidence?

- 1) Believing in something with out evidence is unreasonable.
- 2) There is not enough evidence for God's existence
- ---
- 3) Belief in God is unreasonable

# Alvin Plantinga

- Challenged the argument
- There are many things that we believe in that we do not have evidence for
  - Existence of the material world
  - Existence of other minds
- We can rationally believe in something as long as there is not convincing evidence against it.



# The Great Pumpkin Argument

- Does this lead to religious pluralism?
- Yes.....So what?
- We can proceed to now argue for or against each religion





# Use of Reason in the Scripture

- Acts 17:2
  - Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures
- Acts 17:17
  - Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.
- Acts 19:8-10
  - 8 And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. 9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

# Use of Reason in the Scripture

- Acts 24:25
  - Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.
- Acts 26:25
  - But he said, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason

# Natural Theology

- Rocks that hit the can
  - The Cosmological Arguments
    - The Contingency Argument – Leibnizian Argument
    - The Kalam Cosmological Argument
  - The Teleological Argument
  - The Moral Argument
  - The Ontological Argument

# Gottfried Leibniz

