



# christian apologetics

PE 420/PE 620

## Evolution, Intelligent Design, & Creation; Course Evaluation, & Conclusion

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

*And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. (Genesis 1:1-4)*



# lecture overview

Challenges to Our Story/Discussion

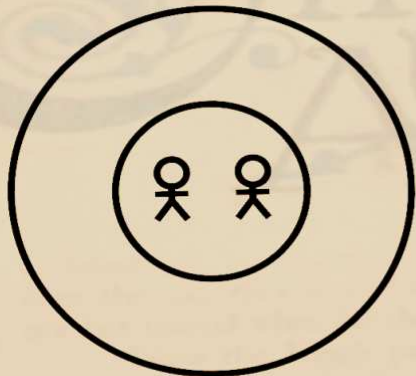
Evolution, ID, & Creation: Open Discussion

Course Consolidation & Review

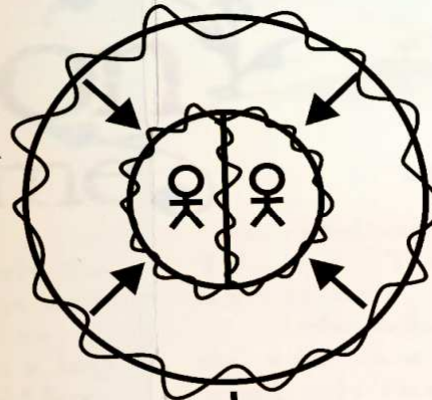
Course Conclusion:  
Humble Apologetics as Art & Science

# \*Challenges to Our Story\*

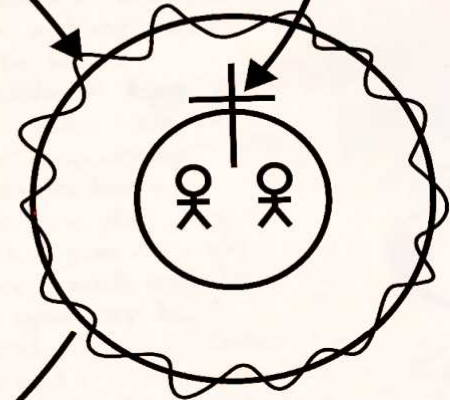
**DESIGNED FOR GOOD**



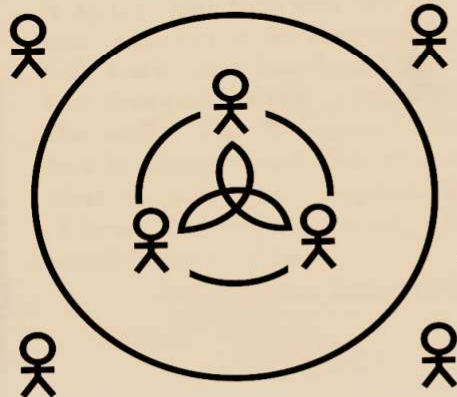
**DAMAGED BY EVIL**



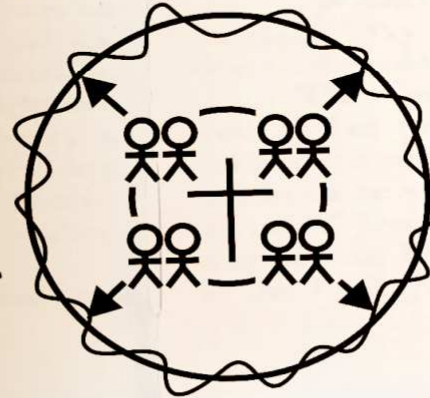
**RESTORED FOR BETTER**



**SET EVERYTHING RIGHT**



**SENT TOGETHER TO HEAL**



An abstract painting with a dark, textured background. It features several stylized, elongated human figures in shades of brown and orange, some appearing to be in motion or interacting. A globe is visible in the lower right quadrant. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

# challenges to our story

**-question**—something you don't get, or want to clarify

**-challenge**—something you disagree with, or want to nuance

**-implication**—“so what” for your apologetic approach

**-application**—something useful right now in your context

# evolution, id, & creation

- 🔊 What is typically meant by the terms *evolution*, *creation*, and *intelligent design*?
- 🔊 Why does this topic generate such heat from all sides?
- 🔊 Who has spent considerable time researching both sides of this debate? Why?
- 🔊 Within Christianity are a range of positions on a continuum. With which position do you most closely identify: *theistic evolutionism*; *progressive/old earth creationism*; or *young earth creationism*?
- 🔊 Why do you hold the position you do? And if you don't take a position, why?

# evolution, id, & creation

- ▶ What are the key issues associated with these discussions?
- ▶ Are there any points of agreement between the evolution, creation, and ID positions?
- ▶ What are the main strengths and weaknesses of each position?
- ▶ What different presuppositions lie behind each position?
- ▶ What questions do you have concerning this issue?

# course consolidation

- 📣 With which apologetic approach—*classical* (logical), *evidential* (empirical), *reformed* (presuppositional), or *fideism* (experiential)—do you most identify?
- 📣 Which apologetic approach would you like to *develop* in, to buttress or complement what you already do naturally?
- 📣 What *topic* most *interested* you in the course?
- 📣 What *topic, issue, or belief system* would you like to *explore further*?

# course consolidation

- 📣 What *author or book* is next on your “to read list” after this course is over, to help you *continue growing* as a Christian apologist?
- 📣 *Knowledge* is not simply for knowledge’s sake—rather, knowledge is to serve as a tool in reaching non-Christian friends and family with the truth, goodness, and beauty of Christ. In this regard, *who* is at the top of your *prayer list*, and *what next step* will you take to reach them?



# course evaluation

The image features a textured, orange-brown background. On the left side, there is a dark, semi-transparent silhouette of a person's face, looking towards the right. The overall aesthetic is warm and artistic.

# course conclusion

A still life painting with a dark, moody atmosphere. In the foreground, a bunch of ripe, yellow bananas with brown spots is the central focus. A single, vibrant orange flower with a long stem and green leaves rises from the bananas. In the background, a dark, textured object, possibly a piece of fabric or a shadow, is visible against a dark green and blue background. The overall composition is rich in texture and color.

- ❖ ***Personalism***: The centrality of testimony and witness
- ❖ ***Apologetics as art and science***: cultivating good bedside manner
- ❖ ***Apologetics as humble***: epistemologically, rhetorically, and spiritually humble

# course conclusion



❖ Above all, *LOVE*:

**“Love is the most powerful apologetic. It is the essential component in reaching the whole person in a fragmented world.”**

**(Ravi Zacharias)**

***“For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”***

**open discussion & prayer**





# ingredients for good apologetics

## #1 Humility

-finite & fallen

-1 Cor. 2:1-5; 8:1

-epistemologically, rhetorically, and  
spiritually humble

-protective, comparative, & imperative  
claims



# ingredients for good apologetics

## #2 Acuity

- “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight” (Philippians 1:9)
- The privatization of religion and the refusal to offer a sound apologetic countering alternative truth claims have produced “fuzzyminded and listless Christians, who care very little about what is to be believed. . . . It is a degenerate offspring of authentic Christianity” (Avery Dulles).

# ingredients for good apologetics

## #3 Love

-insular, attacking, or embracing

-Gen. 1:26-28; Matt. 22:37-40; 28:18-20;  
Col. 1:28

📢 How does apologetics contribute to us  
*loving God, loving others, making  
mature disciples, and effectively  
cultivating the earth?*

-a poem and a prayer



## the apologist's evening prayer

“From all my lame defeats and oh! much more  
From all the victories that I seemed to score;  
From cleverness shot forth on Thy behalf  
At which, while angels weep, the audience laugh;  
From all my proofs of Thy divinity,  
Thou, who wouldst give me no sign, deliver me.

Thoughts are but coins. Let me not trust, instead  
Of Thee, their thin-worn image of Thy head.  
From all my thoughts, even from my thoughts of Thee,  
O thou fair Silence, fall, and set me free.  
Lord of the narrow gate and the needle's eye,  
Take from me all my trumpery lest I die.”