

christian apologetics

PE 420/PE 620

Behavioural Challenges to Christianity 2: Anthropological, Sociological, and Psychological Challenges ... especially Feminism

"All of you are God's children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes. Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other, whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman. So if you belong to Christ, you are now part of Abraham's family, and you will be given what God has promised." (Galatians 3:26-29)

lecture overview

Many Paths, One Door—discussion

Challenges to Our Story/Discussion

Apologetic Method

Sexism Today—introduction

Feminism—context > class activity

many paths, one door

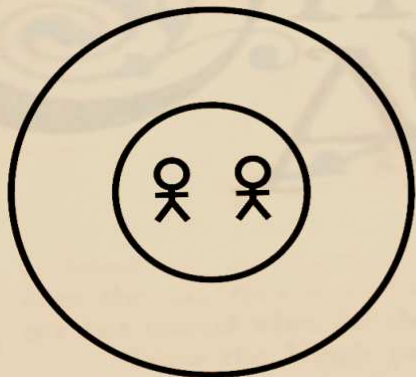
Any comments from *Many Paths, One Door* regarding the exclusivity and universality of Christ in a pluralistic world?

Any comments or questions concerning the next two pieces of assessment?

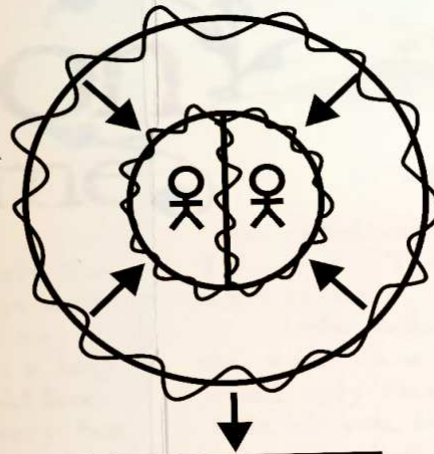


Challenges to Our Story

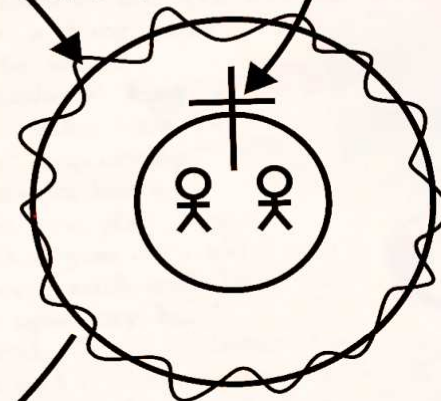
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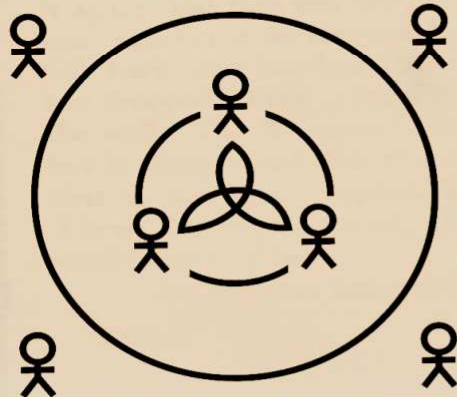
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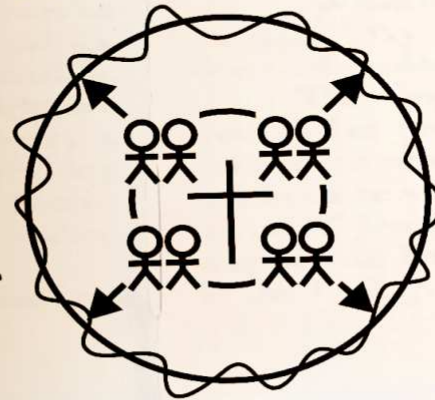
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SET EVERYTHING RIGHT



SENT TOGETHER TO HEAL





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

+ **show and tell**

an apologetic method

META-METHOD

(1) Awareness of Neighbour

***Relationship**

***Knowledge of**

-the individual

-the social context

-the theological context

(2) Determination of Need

***Common Life**

***Questions**

***Understanding**

an apologetic method

META-METHOD

(3) Determination of Resources

***Mine**

-gifts

-limitations

***Others**

(4) Determination of Opportunity

***Temporal**

-now

-provoked

-providence

***Material Opportunity**

-what is needed, and how is it received best

an apologetic method

META-METHOD

(5) Deployment of Resources

***Hesitation**

-prayer & trust in God and the Church

-humility & preparation

-clarity

***Temporal**

-now

-later, according to plan

-later, according to providence

***Material**

-what?

-how much? & how?

an apologetic method

METHOD

(1) Questions and Challenges

(2) Context

***General**

-society

-church

***Particular**

-sympathetic acquaintance

-study/research

-personal experience

-job

***Concerns**

-hopes // fears

an apologetic method

METHOD

(3) Responses

***Clarification**

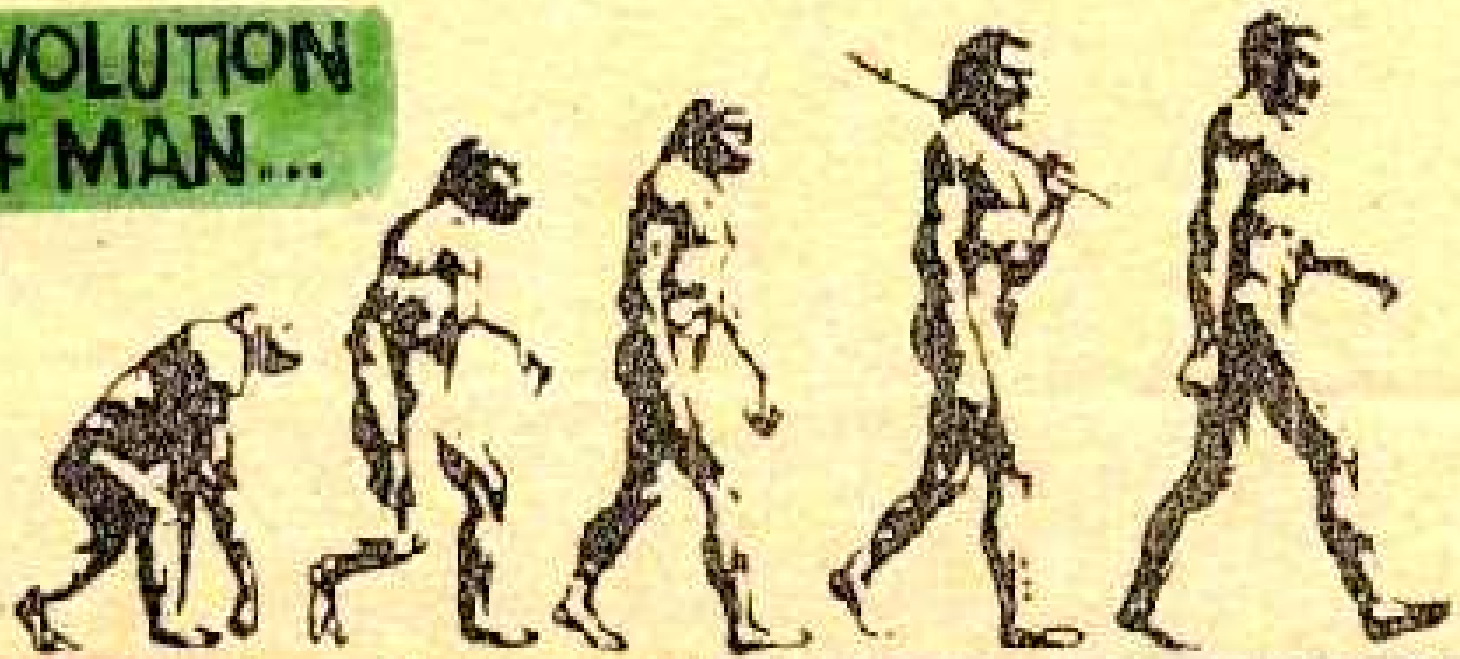
***Admission**

Defense ... *"seen in this light, Xy is still plausible"

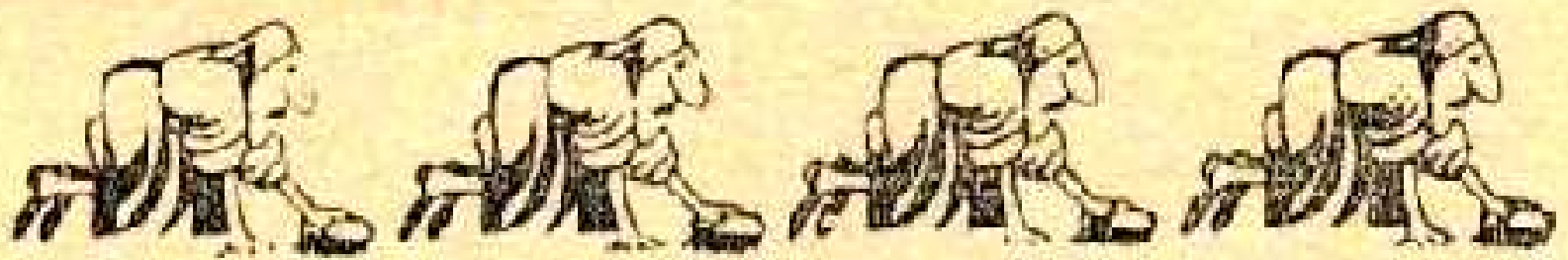
Positive Presentation ... *"Xy is attractive"

Action ... *corollary apologetics

EVOLUTION
OF MAN...



and woman.



© Spalding

sexism today

📢 How big an issue is sexism today, alongside sexuality in general?

📢 How significantly do people's attitudes on sexuality influence their openness to Christianity? In what way?

*"Teachings about **homosexuality** was the major reason, across all categories, young people gave for not identifying with a religion. Other notable moral teachings people disliked included the church's attitude to **women**, especially the **ordination** of women, **rules about sex** before marriage and the prohibition of **abortion**."*

*(Mason et al, *The Spirit of Generation Y*, p. 80)*

📢 How should Christians respond?

apologetic method applied to issues of sexuality & sexism

🔊 What images or stories come to mind when you hear the word “feminist”?

🔊 But what *is* feminism?

🔊 Is “Biblical feminist” an oxymoron? Why, or why not?

🔊 Where are the points of tension between feminism and Christianity? Brainstorm *all* the feminist critiques of, and objections to, Christianity you can, later to be discussed.

your turn

☀ In responding to the particular questions and challenges feminists pose to Christianity, outline a response according to the following method: *[n.b. preparation until 8:40 → present]*

- (1) What *hopes* and *fears* are common to many feminists?
- (2) What *terms* and *concepts* must be *clarified* for a productive dialogue to ensue?
- (3) What genuine *admissions* should Christians make to begin the dialogue?
- (4) How could you *defend the plausibility* of Christianity in light of the key objections? ... *“seen in this light, Xy is still plausible”*
- (5) How could you *commend the attractiveness* of Christianity to a feminist? ... *“seen in this light, Xy is attractive”*
- (6) What other *actions*—corollary apologetics—may strengthen your dialogue?



apologetic method applied to issues of sexuality & sexism

(1) Questions and Challenges

Christianity oppresses women in home, church, & society

Reproduction itself

Sexual Intercourse

Sexual Options

Marriage

Plurality of ethical/sexual standards (within the church)

**Sexual Harassment and Unprofessional Behaviour
(practiced by Christians generally and leaders
particularly)**

apologetic method applied to issues of sexuality & sexism

(2) Context

*General

- history of oppression and resistance*
- sexual revolution, loss of the sacred, and pursuit of liberty*

*Ecclesiastical

- history of, and current, teachings and practices regarding*

- *artificial birth control and abortion

- *patriarchy, feminism, gender

- *chastity

- *marriage, divorce, and remarriage

- *homosexuality and marriage

- *status and care of children



apologetic method applied to issues of sexuality & sexism

(2) Context

***Particular Context**

- sympathetic acquaintance with an oppressed woman, sexually active teen, homosexual, etc.*
- study/research ... exposure to other views*
- personal experience re: gender and sex*
- job requires publicly-appropriate attitudes*

Home

PALE!

exist