

Apologetics Part 3: The Heart of the Matter
July 15, 2018 | Woodland Christian Church
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Introduction to Epistemology

The foundation of every worldview is its epistemology.

Epistemology is the branch of philosophy that considers the nature, limitations, and origins of knowledge.

A proposition is a statement with a truth value.

Knowledge is justified true belief.

Justification: What is your reason for believing something?

Four Justifications

- Empiricism:
- Rationalism:
- Pragmatism:
- Authority:

All knowledge claims are ultimately appeals to authority.

This raises the question: which authority is worth appealing to?

Comparing Authorities

- God is omniscient, eternal, and infallible.
- The human mind is ignorant, finite, and fallible.

Implications

- God is not merely one possible way to knowledge. He has a monopoly on it.
- You cannot make sense of ANY part of the human experience without appealing to God.
- There is no epistemological “common ground” with the unbeliever.
- Apologetics is ultimately about epistemology, which is ultimately about authority.

1 Cor. 1

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 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, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Proverbs 1:7

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Colossians 2:3,8

*3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
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.*

Psalm 118:8

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men.

1 John 5:9

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater.