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Smart Faith 10:00 am Breakout Session
4/28/2018

What is Christian Philosophy?

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world." (St. Paul)

"Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered." (C.S. Lewis)

"...What may be known about God is plain For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (St. Paul)

- I. **Goal:** An apology for Philosophy (i.e. why Christians should do philosophy well)
- II. **Argument:** If you are human you are engaging in philosophy (consciously or unconsciously). You are either engaging in "good" philosophy or "bad" philosophy. Christians ought to be engaging in "good" philosophy. Good philosophy includes showing what is clear about God from the things that are made.
 - A. Assumptions: Humans engage in philosophy
 - B. There is a distinction between "good" and "bad" philosophy
 - C. There is a moral obligation for Christians to be engaged in "good" philosophy
 - D. Good philosophy requires showing what is clear
- III. What is Philosophy?
 - A. Area: Foundation and goal
 - B. Attitude: Love of wisdom
 - C. Method: Critical use of reason
 - D. Application: Self-examination
 - E. System: World and life view
 - F. Philosophy and sophistry
- IV. What is "bad" philosophy?
 - A. Hollow philosophy: Emptying words of meaning
 - B. Deceptive philosophy: False assumptions
 - C. Human tradition: Uncritically held assumptions
 1. Empiricism: All knowledge through the senses
 2. Rationalism: Reason is a source of truth
 3. Intuitionism: Sign is reality
 4. Common Sense: Appearance is reality

- 5. Tradition and Custom: Truth is comfort
 - D. Basic principles of this world: Monism; dualism; Deism; Deontology; Consequentialism
 - E. Christianity and bad philosophy
 - F. Fideism in the church and skepticism in the world
- V. What is “good” philosophy and why ought Christians to be engaged in “good” philosophy?
 - A. Clarity and inexcusability
 - B. Area: Foundation; Epistemology; Metaphysics; Ethics
 - C. Attitude: Love the Lord your God with all your heart
 - D. Method: Take every thought captive
 - E. Application: Be prepared in season and out of season
 - F. System: You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free; Sanctify them by thy truth
- VI. How to engage in “good” philosophy?
 - A. John’s Prologue and Philosophy
 - 1. The Logos/ Word and Truth
 - 2. The Logos as mediator
 - 3. The Logos in man: The light of nature
 - 4. The Logos in the world:
 - a) Creation is revelation: Necessarily, intentionally, exclusively
 - b) Nature’s laws
 - c) Moral laws
 - d) Heraclitus and the Logos: The Logos is all around us, but men are deaf to the Logos
 - B. Romans and Philosophy: Judgment and rejection of the Word/ Logos
 - C. Faith and philosophy: I believe what I understand
 - D. Philosophy and apologetics: Offense and defense
 - E. Philosophy of religion: Addressing current challenges
- VII. Implications of Clarity: Seek then know; Know then show
 - A. Diligently seeking and the reward
 - B. What is clarity?
 - C. How do we know when clarity has been reached?
 - D. Is clarity the same for everyone?
 - E. Is everything clear?
 - F. For what does God hold humans morally accountable?