

Biblical Apologetics
Session Eight: Defending the Faith (ETC pp. 123-132)

Christian: "God is going to judge the world someday in the future"

Unbeliever: "That is a ridiculous idea, born out of a pre enlightenment view steeped in mythology and designed to oppress people by making them afraid."

Christian: "Are you willing to listen too me patiently for a few minutes to hear why I believe that God is going to judge the world someday?"

Unbeliever: "Yeah, for a few minutes but don't expect to change my mind."

ARGUMENT BY TRUTH

Affirm: "Everything I am about to say is informed by my commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord."

Give:

1. The Bible says that God is the Creator of the world (**Gen. 1:1**); as such He alone has authority to judge.
2. The Bible explicitly says in multiple places that God is the Judge (**Gen. 18:25; 1 Sam. 2:10; 2 Chron. 6:23; Psalm 7:11; 50:6**).
3. God has judged the world in the past (**Gen. 6:7; 7:17-24; Ezek. 7:8**).
4. The Bible says God will judge the world again (**Psalm 96:13; 2 Peter 3:3-7**).
5. The Bible says that God will judge each individual upon their death (**Heb. 9:27; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5; Rev. 20:11-15**).
6. Humanity has a universal sense of morality and justice which reflects their being made in the image and likeness of God who is the ultimate dispenser of justice.
7. The phenomena of natural consequences points to the judgment of God.
8. Humanities fear of death results from a sense of having to "meet their Maker" and face His justice.
9. The growing wickedness in the world leads me to believe there is a coming judgment.
10. I became convinced of the reality of future judgment for my own sins which resulted in my trusting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to deliver me from the judgment to come.

Show:

Unbeliever: "I have patiently listened while you spouted out your Bible verses but I am not convinced."

Christian: "The reason you are unconvinced is because you are committed to your independence as the final source of truth. I can demonstrate this to you if you will permit me to ask you a few questions." "Why do you think the evidence is unconvincing?" "Why do you not believe what the Bible has to say?" "How do you know that?" "Where did you learn that?"

ARGUMENT FROM FOLLY

Question:

“Since you are obviously committed to independence, by what standard do you hold to your position that there is no future judgment? Logic? Human reason? Science? Please justify your position?”

Demonstrate: the futility of the unbelievers portion based upon their own “standard of proof.”

Statement of Absolute Certainty:

“There is no judgment because there is no afterlife.”

1. *“You have no can cannot deal with all the evidence for and against the idea of an afterlife.”*
2. *“You are only guessing that there is no afterlife. You have not died and are thus unable to render a certain statement that meets your own standard of proof (i.e. logic, human reason, science etc.)”*

“There is no future punishment - all the hell or heaven we get occurs in this life.”

1. *“By your own standard you can not supply the evidence necessary to support this view.”*
2. *“Furthermore, you are in no position to determine from your limited perspective what sort of punishment sin deserves.”*

“There is no judgment, only the inevitable natural disasters like war, pollution, overpopulation, disease etc.”

1. *“You can not and haven’t examined all of the evidence necessary to prove that God is not in control of the world in such a way that natural disasters are not part of His judgment.”*
2. *“your position is based upon “blind faith”*

Statement of Total Uncertainty:

“It is not possible to know about events beyond the grave”

1. *“While your statement may appear to be one of humility, it is in reality a bold claim about the nature of death and judgment.” “A claim about which you do not possess the evidence necessary to make.”*
2. *“Furthermore, if we assume for a moment that your statement is true (we can’t know about the afterlife) then it is self-refuting; because if we cannot know about the afterlife, then we cannot know that we cannot know.”*

Challenge: *“The only way out of the irrationality and self-defeating predicament in which you find yourself is to repent of your commitment to independence and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”*