

Apologetics, Methodology, and Evangelism

Apologetics, Methodology, and Evangelism, weeks one, two, and three, combined to draw a better relationship between the studies and how they support each other.

Reasonable faith, why reasonable and not just faith? It seems almost impossible to discern ourselves, to test the spirits, 1 John 4:1, without reason. Galatians 6:1, "but if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one," in part. Faith will lead us, but to judge another's trespass, we must be able to reason. We know the methodology of the church, those rules which have been laid before, us of which we both live by and make judgments, never to condemn but instead lift our family within the church.

We are warned about many things, such as the environment around us, 2 Peter 2:1, a wolf in sheep's clothing, Matthew 7:15, false prophets, Colossians 4:2; "devote yourself prayer to be watchful and thankful," this requires action on our part. Faith is the bedrock on which we stand, it enables us to discern through the Spirit, but there remain those final decisions we make and the attitudes and attributes we choose to live out. No, I do not believe we can walk in faith without reason. Yes, we have good reason through God's gift to exercise our faith until we can eventually trust in all things God, but we must act. The word reason itself is used sixty-seven times in sixty-seven verses in the NKJV. Romans 12:1; says, "that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (in part). So it appears that reasonable demands reason and logic on our part.

Faith alone; People may misunderstand the separation of works and works of faith when we go back to those who have sought to achieve salvation through their works and those who perform works of faith by what God is doing through them. After studying numerous writings on the types of works, it appears there was a fear that too many people would think their works would earn them salvation, and for a good reason. As there were then and still to this day religious practices that teach such. Jehovah's Witnesses are works-oriented, believing Jesus is subordinate to the Father and they are not one. Young Mormons are also to do works through door-to-door sharing, yet not knowing or accepting that man enters into heaven through God's gift of faith in Jesus. Again, their belief in Jesus is not God but a distinct and separate being.

These issues that contrast with the Holy Scripture make it very simple to demonstrate the fallacies in both belief systems. If the Bible is God's coherent, consistent, and inerrant word, which the Scripture makes clear, it is the final word. Both groups have altered or even rewritten new Bibles, which the Scripture warns us not to do. See Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, Proverbs 30:6, and Revelation 22:18; there are more.

Methodology – Can we find practical reasoning and include it in the methodology? As we look back to the five centuries of scholastics, when nearly everything Biblical was scrutinized, taken apart, and evaluated, we can easily see why the world needed revival and reformation. Developing new systems under new understandings requires reasoning and rationalizing

methods. Church history demonstrates to us how there seemed to be an almost trial-and-error growth before landing at specific points where the technique became the practice. When we review our class overview in PowerPoint, we find how so much of our learning and discerning all run together as to how we have arrived at where we are today in our theological studies. Yes, Christianity has methods that all of us use to better understand, giving us reasonable faith.

Observe “the problem of evil” from our PowerPoint slide “evidential versus logical arguments.”

Developing a system of beliefs requires much understanding of past evidence and future objectives to establish the Method and reasoning a person or group chooses to use and be governed.

If we open a door or plant a seed, we must contemplate who the receiver is and how they feel about God. I am talking about outside the church. As we look at the slide again, addressing evil, we find the words "logical arguments" One has faith and practices, a set of rules and guidelines which to follow, were these guidelines established just by faith or were there many arguments and debates taking place throughout time?

Today we can look back to the numerous synods that have occurred throughout the centuries, nineteen in all, "nine ordinaries, two extraordinary, and eight special." The Catholic church numbers more than the Christian churchchurch(<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/synods-since-vatican-ii-3961>). Today's significant problem is the lack of tempered and respectful debates, arguments, and open discussions. Do not mix politics and religion, do not pray in the open, or challenge authority. Yet, most people do so walking blindly into a rancid deplorable future. Is this, then, how we are to walk in our faith? We should believe not. We must realize that our faith is the guiding light for everything we do, even our political decisions and how we treat others of different opinions.

Methodologies and where to begin? Let's start back to the beginning of our faith, why we have reason to believe, and how to share it. Any beliefs and practices we establish must be Christ-centered and well-thought-out. Not all in a room of ten people will see things the same way or have the same measure of faith and understanding. Add a few million more to the equation, and we must evaluate the methodology and the precepts we seek to accomplish, a target to reach. Separate from faith, a person has no chance of becoming a Christian. So we come to different doctrinal practices, ways of believing, and differences in how we exercise our lives in Jesus. However, every Christian must believe that Jesus died for our sins, not just believers as some think, for before God called us, we all as individuals were yet sinners.

What about the necessity of evangelism?

Romans 10:14-15; How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: Is this not also part of the great command, aren't we to go and make disciples of all nations, Matthew 28:19?

God has chosen those who love Him and abide by His commands, we have a responsibility to share and offer, or perhaps we should say invite people to open their hearts and doors to allow our Holy Spirit to begin His work. God will prepare and be with us everywhere we go in His name. However, sharing the gospel has its challenges; we can look around at the evil that stalks about seeking whom it may devour. People, especially those who resist God, have a deep hatred, and they not only seek to deny God but wish to destroy it. Where would the church be if none of us evangelized?

SYNONYMS for Reasonable

Compare Synonyms

acceptable	legitimate	understandable	just	sapient
cheap	modest	valid	knowing	sound
equitable	objective	analytical	legit	standing to
fair	plausible	average	low-cost	reason
feasible	proper	circumspect	low-priced	temperate
honest	prudent	conservative	making sense	unexcessive
humane	restrained	controlled	okay	unextreme
impartial	sane	discreet	politic	within
judicious	sensible	fit	reflective	reason
justifiable		inexpensive	right	