

DEFENDING GOD'S EXISTENCE



KEN HAM

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Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Acknowledgments | 4 |
| Foreword | 5 |
| 1. Introduction: The Existence of God..... | 7 |
| 2. Apologetics — What Is It? | 11 |
| 3. How to Refute (Disprove) Something | 21 |
| 4. Abbreviated Logical Fallacies..... | 31 |
| 5. Getting Started | 47 |
| 6. Popular Apologetics Methodologies — and Their Problems..... | 53 |
| 7. Other Apologetic Methods That “Fare No Better” | 83 |
| 8. Van Til — Who Was He and What Did He Do? | 91 |
| 9. The Powerful Transcendental Argument for the Existence of God .. | 97 |
| 10. Neutrality vs. Common Ground | 105 |
| 11. How to Use Evidence | 111 |
| 12. Proof vs. Persuasion | 119 |
| 13. The Disproof of Atheism | 123 |
| 14. The Veil of a Debased Mind..... | 127 |
| 15. Isn’t Starting with the Bible Circular Reasoning?..... | 131 |
| 16. Where Did God Come From? Or Who Created God?..... | 135 |
| 17. God’s Triune Nature | 137 |
| 18. The “Omni’s” of God | 145 |
| 19. The Distressing Attributes of God..... | 159 |
| 20. Testing for the Ultimate Authority..... | 173 |
| 21. Practical Micro-Refutations of False Worldview..... | 183 |
| 22. The Bible vs. Other Alleged Holy Books | 189 |
| 23. The Seriousness of Sin — Breaking God’s Law..... | 209 |
| Glossary of Terms..... | 217 |
| Index | 223 |

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—Ken Ham
General Editor

Foreword

Does God really exist?

This question has massive implications. If God doesn't exist, we must be products of naturalistic evolution over millions of years. We're just animals, no different and of no more inherent value than slugs, baboons, or bananas. There is no ultimate purpose or meaning to life and no hope beyond the grave because when you're dead, that's it, you're dead. There is no absolute right or wrong, no justice, and no true accountability because we're nothing but bags of chemicals and chemicals aren't responsible for any of the consequences of their reactions.

That's a pretty bleak picture and few atheists or skeptics live like it's true. They generally care about their own lives, and those of their families, friends, and communities. They usually believe strongly about right and wrong, justice, and even meaning and purpose. But it's all without foundation because if there really is no God...it all means nothing. Everything ends in nothingness; no one will remember they were ever here.

What a depressing way to start a book! But that is what is at stake when you ask the question, "Does God exist?" You aren't just asking, "Is there an eternal being somewhere out in the universe?" You're really asking:

- Is there meaning and purpose to my life?
- Am I more than just an animal and a chemical reaction?
- Is there life after death?
- Do right and wrong really exist?
- Why am I here?

And the good news—the best news—is that atheists are utterly, completely, and foolishly wrong. Their worldview simply doesn't stand up to scrutiny (I'm getting ahead of myself as we will get to those arguments soon). The only answer to the question that makes sense of what we observe is yes, God exists; specifically the God of the Bible exists.

If you don't yet know this God, whether you're an atheist, a skeptic, or just curious, I pray you will read this book and feel convicted about your beliefs. That you will see the inconsistency of all other religious beliefs

expect biblical Christianity. And, ultimately, that you will come to know Jesus Christ, the God-man, as your Lord and Savior.

Giving up on atheism, unbelief, or even curiosity may feel like giving up control over your life (and it is—when you become a Christian, you give your life over to the God of the universe, to become His servant, walking in obedience to Him) but, as a life-long follower of Christ, I can promise you: it's worth it. He's worth it all.

God exists; He loves you; He died and rose again for you; and He's promised there is eternity waiting you after your last breath. And it's either with Him in heaven or without Him in hell. The stakes couldn't be higher, but God has made it obvious to all that He exists because He wants everyone—you included—to come to repentance.

So let's get started.

Ken Ham

*CEO Answers in Genesis, Creation Museum,
and Ark Encounter*



Introduction: The Existence of God

Why don't I use the classical arguments for the existence of God?

I've been speaking and writing on apologetics for 50 years but if you've followed my ministry for any length of time, you may have noticed I rarely, if ever, use the classical arguments for the existence of God. These are arguments such as first cause, design in nature, the ontological argument, or the teleological argument. Why not?

It's not because these arguments are never effective. They sometimes are. Just recently the co-founder of Wikipedia, Larry Sanger, detailed his testimony of coming to saving faith in Christ and these classical arguments featured prominently. So, they can be effective at times (and praise God for that—He's the one who saves, not our clever arguments). Why then don't I use them?

I don't use them largely because you can only take them so far. At some point near the end of the argument, there's always a gigantic leap of logic to say the God whose existence you've logically proved was and is the "God of the Bible." You see, classical arguments are not arguments

specifically for the God of the Bible but rather for a “generic god” or a generic concept of a “deity.”

Christian apologists (defenders of the Christian faith) for more than a thousand years used these classical methods. But not just Christians—*non-Christians* also used these methods when arguing for their alleged God/god(s). In fact, even the great ancient Greek philosopher *Aristotle* used one of these classical methods to argue for a “god” against the backdrop of polytheism (i.e., “many gods”).

Here’s the point: Classical arguments for the existence of *a god* do *not* necessarily argue for the biblical God. That is, these arguments have been used to argue for *any alleged* “god”—such as Zeus, Thor, Allah, the Great Spirit, Saturn, Baal, or any other false god—with the supposed goal of simply trying to convince someone to not be an “atheist.”

Back in the 1980’s there was an American atheist activist and free-thought intellectual named *Dr. Gordon Stein* who was “wreaking havoc” on Christians. He published books that challenged the existence of God by dismantling these classical methods. He realized there were significant logical problems with them and simply capitalized on those weaknesses.

He would debate Christians and often leave them looking very foolish. That was until 1985 when he debated a Christian philosopher and pastor, *Dr. Greg Bahnsen at the University of California, Irvine on atheism vs. theism*. Bahnsen, unlike many other Christians, *opposed* the typical use of the classical arguments as he also saw the problems with them. Instead, he used the *transcendental* argument in the famous “Great Debate” (which I strongly recommend every Christian listen to at least once!).

Dr. Stein was stopped dead in his tracks as Bahnsen forced him to account for the inconsistencies of his own atheistic worldview and, without the classical arguments to rip apart, *his argument* was left in ashes and he looked foolish. He began to completely stumble over his responses to Bahnsen in the debate. As a result, his fame as arguably one of the most famous atheists (even on par with famed atheist *Dr. Richard Dawkins*) was washed away. So much so that most atheists today don’t even remember his name!

After this debate, Greg Bahnsen informally earned the title, “The Man Most Feared by Atheists.” Of course, the *Man* that atheists should fear is the God-man—Jesus Christ—who Bahnsen was defending.

So... what are “*apologetics*,” “*philosophy*,” and “*logic*”? How do they intertwine? Why do these *classical arguments for the existence of God* fall short? What is the *transcendental argument for the existence of God* (often abbreviated simply as “TAG”), and why is it so powerful? We’ll explore all those questions, and more, throughout this book.

As you read, there will likely be times you’ll say something like, “Oh, that is so obvious” or “I understand that easily,” but there will surely be places where you suddenly realize how deep the “ocean of philosophy” can get. You may even say, “Do I want to keep reading because this seems like it is way over my head?”

When you hit these points, I want to encourage you to just keep on reading. As we go, I’ll reiterate certain teachings and points in multiple ways, at multiple depths, and with multiple illustrations, so just keep going—I promise by the end of the book, you’ll get it.

When you get to those points where you have to read some things (at least) twice, don’t let that bother you. When it comes to philosophy, sometimes I’ve had to read things 2 or 3 (or 4 or 5 times!) to even somewhat grasp it. I don’t want to burden you with having to read things over and over, so I’m trying to be mindful of that when writing.

As you take this journey into philosophy and apologetics, enjoy it and remember that it’s not merely to gain more “head knowledge”—it’s to better defend the existence of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to a world that desperately needs to know that He is who He says He is: the eternal God who alone can save.

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? (1 Corinthians 1:20)



Apologetics — What Is It?

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense (apologia) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. (1 Peter 3:15)

What Is Apologetics and What Is Its Purpose?

The phrase translated “to give a defense” or sometimes “give an answer” in 1 Peter 3:15 comes from the Greek word *apologia* (ἀπολογία), which literally means, “a reasoned defense” (or a “verbal defense,” like in a court of law). (Note, it does *not* mean to *apologize*, even though the two words sound similar!). Simply put, it means to give a *logical defense of the Christian faith*.

Apologetics is a vital branch of Christianity that defends the authority of the Bible, the character of God, and Christianity as a whole. When we do apologetics, we are using the Bible as an offensive spiritual “weapon” (e.g., like a sword) against all other worldviews and opposition to Christianity. Apologetics is essential when discussing the existence of the biblical God—which is one of the foremost discussions in general apologetics.

As believers in our modern era, we need to be equipped with *general apologetics* to be able to defend general theology, miracles, the reliability of biblical manuscripts, the Resurrection, and the existence of God. General apologetics is the focus of this book.

But, in the times we live in where Genesis 1–11 (the foundational history God has given us that forms the basis for our worldview) is the most attacked portion of Scripture, we also need to be equipped with *creation apologetics*. *Why? Well, if you start arguing for God's existence with a skeptic, I guarantee it won't take long before you'll be dealing with questions about evolution, millions of years, the global Flood, racism, LGBTQ issues, abortion, death and suffering, and other attacks surrounding Genesis 1–11.*¹

Apologetics is an exciting area of study to help strengthen our faith as believers, defend Christianity, and cause unbelievers to question the shaky foundation of their own worldview. But please don't misunderstand this important point: Apologetics is *not* a tool to make people believe in Christ. The Bible is clear that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17²) and "no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3³). I compare apologetics to Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.⁴ Unbelievers are dead inside; they cannot save themselves. When Jesus raised Lazarus He commanded those standing around to move the stone away from the tomb. Jesus is all-powerful. He could have commanded the stone to move and it would've obeyed! But Jesus had Lazarus' family and friends do what they could do—move the stone (e.g. present apologetics and the gospel)—and Jesus did what only He can do: raised the dead!

So, while they can't save, prayerful apologetics can help "move the stones" from skeptical hearts as we point to God's Word and the gospel, showing unbelievers that the Bible is true, and therefore the gospel is also true.

Apologetics can also *reinforce* the faith of believers, encouraging them to stand more boldly on the authority of God's Word in every area, and increase their confidence in evangelism as they now have answers to the skeptical questions raised against God's authority.

1. You can find resources to equip you on creation apologetics at AnswersinGenesis.org.

2. So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

3. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3)

4. Read the full account of Lazarus in John 11.

Apologetics Are Two Pronged: Offense and Defense

According to 1 Peter 3:15 every Christian must have a defensive apologetic. But many other passages of Scripture command us, as Christians, to also have an *offense*.

Imagine this: you're playing a game but your team is only ever allowed to play defense, never offense. Would you win the game? Not a chance! At best, if your defense was nearly perfect, you could tie (assuming the other team doesn't forfeit, of course!). It's the same in apologetics, you need defense to show why our worldview is the right one, and offense to show why the unbeliever's worldview is the wrong one.

The Bible is described as a *sword*, and a sword is obviously used for both defense *and* offense in battle.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

The Bible also describes believers as have spiritual “weapons of our warfare:”

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:4–6)

The ESV puts verse 5 this way: “*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*” In other words, when under attack, the Christian has two primary defenses available: defend (answer) and/or disarm (go on the offense). You'll need both of these “basics of Christian apologetics” when sharing the gospel with an unbeliever.

It's like this: if someone comes at you with a knife, you can defend yourself by blocking or moving out of the way every time the attacker strikes. Or the better option, if possible, is to *disarm* your opponent by taking away the knife altogether.

In apologetics, you can defend by answering all the questions presented by the unbeliever, trying to shoot down every attack. Or you can *disarm* the unbeliever completely by refuting the very basis of their philosophical attacks, pointing out that they have a faulty starting point for their worldview. In other words, exposing the reality that they have no foundation whatsoever for their beliefs in the first place. Of course, all this should be done with meekness and fear (i.e., gentleness and respect) as the last part of 1 Peter 3:15 instructs us.

As a practical example, an evolutionist once mockingly said to me that he couldn't believe that Bible believers (like me) actually believe that all the people in the world came from just two people, Adam and Eve. I had two choices in how to respond: one, I could've scientifically defended this biblical truth, pointing, for example, to new finds in genetics. But he wasn't looking for answers—he was just mocking me. So I went on the offensive and took my second option: I responded that I couldn't understand how people holding to his (evolutionary) worldview believe all the people in the world came from a *rock*.⁵ Then I brought in the defensive: I told him we observe people come from people all the time but we don't see people come from rocks.⁶

In this apologetic, I was highlighting that he hadn't even considered the absurdity of his own position, where the biblical position actually does make sense. Having people descend from Adam and Eve is actually quite logical.

The Care of the Apologist

The Bible commands us, as Christians, to be prepared to give a reasoned defense of the faith but 1 Peter 3:15 also makes it clear that our defense of the faith must start with setting apart Christ as Lord in our hearts, and acting with *gentleness and respect*. (These two points are critically important when defending the Christian faith, so don't miss this!)

5. Yes, you read that correctly. Evolutionists really do believe we owe our existence to rocks. (In other words, our ancestors were rocks!) For example, see this article: <https://www.science.org/content/article/you-owe-your-life-rock>.

6. Of course, the Bible does say that the first man (Adam) was formed by God from the "dust of the ground" (Genesis 2:7), so the point is not that it's impossible for humans to come from "rocks." Rather, the point here is that only the biblical worldview actually provides a *logical basis* for our existence—that we all descend from Adam (Acts 17:26). Whereas the evolutionist cannot even make sense of the question of where we came from, given his faulty worldview—failing to realize the inconsistency in his argument and the absurdity of his beliefs.

Far too often, Christians obtain a few answers and immediately think they are ready to “force” those answers on to people so they can beat their opponent. But that’s not the right attitude! Instead, apologetics isn’t about “forcing” anything on anyone. It’s about sharing the gospel with gentleness and respect so that “God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil” (2 Timothy 2:25b, 26a). We need to show the same grace, mercy, patience, and love that the Lord showed to us.

This is why apologetics should always be used in conjunction with the *Gospel* (Matthew 28:18–20⁷; Mark 16:15⁸); in other words, don’t do apologetics for the sake of trying to win an argument, but do it for the sake of the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ.

Consider another pertinent passage related to apologetics:

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. (1 Timothy 6:3–5)

We must also use discernment when discussing the things of God. Many apologists get caught up debating one person (who refuses to be corrected) much longer than they should (I often see this in the comment section of my social media pages!), sometimes over the course of years. Consider what the Scriptures say about this:

But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. (Titus 3:9–11)

7. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (Matthew 28:18–20)

8. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces. (Matthew 7:6)

And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them. (Luke 9:5)

In other words, when it becomes obvious that someone is not willing to learn, shows no signs of change, or does not even consider they could be wrong, do not continue wasting time with them (on the account of their hard hearts). Simply move on and seek more fruitful evangelism with others who are willing to listen. But even when we must move on, we can continue to pray for that person, that God would someday soften their hard heart—and when that begins to happen, we're ready with apologetics and the gospel again!

Some Christians (falsely) think that the Bible commands us to give an answer back to those people who are arguing against the Christian faith repeatedly (for years even) because of 1 Peter 3:15. But it doesn't say to always give an answer, but always "be *prepared* to give an answer" (NIV).

Again, it's important for Christians to recognize the times to give answers and the times to refrain (Titus 3:9–10⁹). For example, when people fail to listen [even professing Christians] (2 Peter 2:3¹⁰) and you can discern that they obviously do not want to be instructed (Proverbs 1:7¹¹), or when their purpose is to be divisive (Romans 16:17¹²), then it is time to move on.

Practical Apologetics

When defending the faith, the apologist should always present the Christian worldview from the starting point of the Bible (Mark 16:15¹³; Proverbs 26:4¹⁴). This means we start with the authority of God's Word. That Christian worldview includes, but is not limited to:

9. But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition. (Titus 3:9–10)
10. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. (2 Peter 2:3)
11. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)
12. Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. (Romans 16:17)
13. Ibid. Ref. 8.
14. Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. (Proverbs 26:4)

- 1 Creation week was a period of six ordinary 24-hour days. How can one stand on the authority of Scripture and then question the history the Bible presents to us? If Genesis is not true, then why is the rest of the Bible true? By the way, an all-powerful God creating in six days and resting on seventh day as a basis for our work week (Exodus 20:11¹⁵) is all too easy a task for Him.
- 2 Man was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27¹⁶). Man is not the product of random chemical reactions over millions of years. Therefore, man is not an evolved animal; he is a unique creation of God and therefore human life has value. (According to atheism, naturalism, and humanism, we just evolved and therefore have no more inherent value than any other form of matter, such as cats, dogs, cockroaches, trees, grass, or dirt.)
- 3 God created a perfect world where there was no death, suffering, or disease (Genesis 1:31¹⁷; Deuteronomy 32:4¹⁸). Man's sin brought death, suffering, animal carnivory,¹⁹ "thorns and thistles,"²⁰ and corruption to this perfect world (Genesis 3). The Bible describes death as an "enemy" (1 Corinthians 15:26²¹) and our fallen world as groaning because of sin.²² The Fall of mankind explains both the beauty and ugliness of this world and the existence of death and suffering and therefore the need for a Savior, Jesus Christ, and the need for a new heavens and new earth where there will be no more death or suffering (Revelation 21:4²³).

15. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. (Exodus 20:11)
16. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)
17. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31)
18. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. (Deuteronomy 32:4)
19. And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. (Genesis 1:29–30)
20. Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it, All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you."" (Genesis 3:17–18a)
21. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. (1 Corinthians 15:26)
22. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. (Romans 8:22)
23. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4)

- 4 The global Flood of Noah's day (Genesis 6–9) explains why we have rock layers filled with fossils. This also shows that God, who is a righteous judge, does judge sin, but also, by His mercy, sends a means of salvation (i.e., the ark).
- 5 The dispersion of peoples at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) explains the existence of people groups with minor physical variations and why we speak different languages, even though we are one race, all sinners, and all in need of a Savior.
- 6 Moses and the Law gives us the standard to define what sin is (as it reigned from the time of Adam) and shows how we fall short of meeting that perfect standard. It relates to how Christ fulfilled the law on behalf of guilty sinners and offers grace to those who repent and trust in Him.
- 7 Christ and His work on the Cross is the only means of salvation. When Christ, the God-man, died on the cross, He paid the penalty of death we deserve for us. Then He rose from the grave, conquering sin and death. He now offers the free gift of salvation to those who repent (turn from their sin) and believe in Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection.
- 8 Jesus will someday return and create a new heavens and a new earth to fulfill everything that God has promised. (Christians look forward to this coming day when there will be no more death or suffering for all of eternity.)

Many times, when we present a Christian worldview to the unbeliever, it involves clearing up misconceptions about Christianity. A few examples are:

- 1 God is one God who is triune (three persons – Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit – each person is fully God, equal in glory, and coeternal), not three separate “gods.”
- 2 Christianity is based on the 66 infallible, inerrant, authoritative, and sufficient books of the Bible, given to us by God (the Holy Spirit is the ultimate author of Scripture who used ordinary, sinful men, who often fail to live up to the standards in the Bible, to pen the words).
- 3 God created the world perfect, not the way it is today. It has been subjected to death and decay due to man's sin (Genesis 1:31²⁴, Deuteronomy 32:4²⁵, Genesis 3, Romans 8). Death and suffering are a result of sin, but God stepped into history as Jesus Christ the God-man to die in place of sinners and save them from sin and death.

24. Ibid. Ref. 17.

25. Ibid. Ref. 18.

We must also realize that, in a sin-cursed and broken world, all unbelievers ultimately start their thinking based on man's (fallible) word instead God's (infallible) Word (e.g., see Ephesians 4:17–18,²⁶ 1 Corinthians 1:21,²⁷ 1 Corinthians 2:14,²⁸ 1 Corinthians 3:19,²⁹ Colossians 2:8,³⁰ Romans 1:18–28). This foundation of man's word can take a variety of forms—literally their own thinking, the general thinking of our culture, another “holy book,” and so on—but all unbelievers ultimately reject God's perfect Word and therefore have no foundation but human reasoning. I've often described it this way: there's really only two religions, in an ultimate sense—God's and not God's. Either you start with the one true God and His Word, or you're by default starting with man's word. There's no other option!

Now, in order to effectively expose the foolishness of a false worldview, we must understand the way unbelievers think. This means you need to know as much as possible about the other person's professed worldview so that you can refute it *biblically* and *logically* (with gentleness and respect, of course). Now, you don't need to completely master every other religious belief system—a basic and foundational knowledge is great but even that can be difficult. So, when you're witnessing, learn as much as possible about the other person's worldview by asking the person questions. Most people are happy to discuss what they believe and that lets you know exactly what that specific person actually believes.

As you ask questions and discover that person's specific beliefs, you can then go on the offensive, doing an internal critique of the unbeliever's worldview (Proverbs 26:5³¹, 2 Timothy 2:25³²). Point out where they are being arbitrary, inconsistent, where their worldview's ultimate conclusion

26. This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. (Ephesians 4:17-18)

27. 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. (1 Corinthians 1:21)

28. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

29. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness.” (1 Corinthians 3:19)

30. 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. (Colossians 2:8)

31. Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes. (Proverbs 26:5)

32. In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth. (2 Timothy 2:25)

leads (e.g., reduced to absurdity), and even cases where they borrow from the Bible.³³ The following chapter discusses how to refute a belief system in more detail.

And, never forget the ultimate goal—the gospel! As you defend and go on the offense, continually point people to God’s Word as the absolute truth and present the Gospel. Many times this can be done when presenting the Christian worldview. But make sure the gospel is “front and center” in apologetics as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is of utmost importance.

In other words, your apologetic should work together with the gospel. This is important because we, as Christians, can often spend *way* too much time on apologetics during our witnessing encounters that we forget the gospel! Simply put, in our defense of the faith, our goal should always be to glorify God and lead people to the cross, and if we fail to do those two things, then we’ve ultimately failed in our apologetic!

Conclusion

When arguing for the existence of the biblical God, remember these key points: We do this for the sake of the gospel and the authority of the Bible. We do this with gentleness and respect. Unbelievers are *not* the enemy; the enemy is the false worldview that has taken them “captive” (2 Timothy 2:24–26,³⁴ Colossians 2:8,³⁵ 2 Corinthians 10:4–5³⁶). Whether they realize it or not, unbelievers are made in the image of God and they are your relative—and ultimately in need of Jesus Christ to be saved.

33. For more on these topics please consult Dr. Greg Bahnsen’s book *Always Ready* or Dr. Jason Lisle’s book *The Ultimate Proof of Creation*.

34. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. (2 Timothy 2:24–26)

35. Ibid. Ref. 30.

36. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4–5)