

## Apologetics Moving Forward

### Objections to Apologetics

#### 1. Human Reason

- A. Human reason is unique to man (we are not “brute beasts,” Jude 10).  
Because of human reason, man can make judgments based on Natural Knowledge.
  - Creation – There is a God. (Ps 19:1)
  - Conscience – He requires a distinction between right and wrong. (Rom 1:19-20)
- B. Human reason can judge correctly in the things of this world (not spiritual things).
- C. God works through means (Holy Scripture).
  - i. Therefore, we must use the laws of language/logic to discover God’s will in the revealed knowledge of the Word
  - ii. Magisterial or Ministerial use of reason (2 Cor 10:5, Col. 2:8)
- D. Does the argumentation of human reason create faith? No. Nothing that human reason produces will advance man toward salvation.

#### 2. Historical Knowledge

- A. Fallen man is capable of acquiring
  - a. natural knowledge of God’s existence,
  - b. {A natural knowledge understanding of right and wrong}
  - c. {A natural knowledge of observable human history}
  - d. understanding as to the meaning of the perspicuous Scriptural text (revealed knowledge)
  - e. A historical knowledge (“*fides historica*”) of Biblical events from the Bible (James 2:19).
- B. Knowledge alone (a, b, c, d and e) does not give salvation.
  - a. You can’t build on natural knowledge (a,b,c). It only shows a lack/need.
  - b. Historical knowledge (d and e) from the Bible does not save (Mt 13:19)
- C. Only Faith which trusts in the promise, which includes the history and the effect of the history.
  - a. historical knowledge of biblical events (Rom 10:14)
  - b. plus assent to the Promise (concerning that knowledge).

### 3. Original Sin

- A. Human reason remains after the fall
  - 1. Fallen man retains the ability
    - a. to reason deductively—to employ logic.
    - b. to reason inductively—to draw correct factual inferences from empirical data
  - 2. A common ground of logic and fact unite the believer and unbeliever, so that
    - a. the believer can persuasively employ the unbeliever's own reasoning against him.
    - b. permits the effective use of analogy-reasoning to convince the unbeliever.
  
- B. Man's reason is feeble and often overcome by sin and weakness. (Ps 14:1)

### 4. Holy Spirit reveals

- A. None of the above capacities of the unregenerate man (human reason and the knowledge which it can obtain) are such as to permit him to mend his broken God-relationship.
- B. Only the Holy Spirit creates faith and gives spiritual understanding.  
2 Peter 3:15-16 "things hard to understand"
- C. False Interpretations of the Word do not create faith or save
  - 1. Pharisees
  - 2. Roman Catholic "works righteousness"
  - 3. 2 Timothy 2:14-19 some say that the resurrection is already past.
- D. "Justification by grace through faith" is the Holy Spirit's interpretation  
John 5:39 "These testify about Me."
- E. The Holy Spirit works through the Word  
Psalm 119:73, "give me understanding"
- F. The Apostles taught the Word in the hope of creating faith.