



PRESUPPOSITIONALISM

APOLOGETICS

A very brief summary

Argues we must presuppose the Christian worldview to argue against it
* called a Transcendental Argument

START

PROOFS

Says that traditional philosophical proofs for God are invalid

Says we should be skeptical of science's ability to lead us to truth

TRUTH

PRESUP-POSITION
Argues Christianity is the only coherent explanation for reality.
And a person must presuppose Christianity to argue against it.
Therefore, Christianity is true.

SCRIPTURE
Although man cannot discover truth through science and reason, he can find it in Scripture.

STARTING POINTS

YOUR FOCUS

These topics are central to your defense of Christianity

Man
People are too damaged from the Fall to find God through reason/science

God
We must presume theism for reality to make sense

Abstract Reality
You get into some pretty deep stuff like limits to human knowledge

Coherency + Consistency
Christianity is the only coherent and consistent system of thought

Uniqueness of Jesus/Christianity
Our most basic needs are only satisfied in the person of Jesus

Theology + Doctrine
Your apologetic is based on key theological doctrines

YOUR ACTIVITY

Activities that convince you Christianity is true

Abstracting
Your defense of Christianity involves abstracting or thinking theoretically.

Deducing
Your defense uses deductive reasoning. This goes from premise to conclusion; *a priori*.

Comparing
Your defense shows Christianity to be the only coherent system among all other beliefs.

VS

Your belief is not based on these activities

Emoting
You avoid placing your confidence in emotions, feelings or euphoria.

Intuiting
Your defense is based more on a starting premise than an impression or direct awareness.

Putting Faith over Reason
Reasoning does play a part in your defense of the faith (circular, indirect, deductive).

Inducing
You distrust science, which moves from specifics to generalizations; *a posteriori*.

Verifying, Confirming
You don't really treat Christianity like a theory to be verified, corroborate or tested.

VALUES

Values in Presuppositionalism

Theoretical Knowledge
You value theoretical knowledge and information.

VS

Not as valuable

Experience
Experience plays little part in convincing you Christianity is true.

Feelings
You probably don't base your confidence in Christianity on your feelings.

Empirical Evidence
You are very skeptical at science's ability to lead a person to the truth.

Practical Knowledge
Your apologetic isn't based on practical results. You may or may not be a practical person.

YOUR OPINIONS

- Traditional proofs for God are not valid!
- We can't/shouldn't use science in apologetics!
- We can't/shouldn't use reason/logic to prove God!

YOUR GOALS

What do you aim for in your proof of Christianity?

Important

Not as important

Certainty
Since people must presuppose Christianity to refute it, it must certainly be true.

VS

Probability
You don't see any way to avoid the Christian worldview. Therefore, it's not *probably* true; it must *certainly* be true.

Results, Livability
Your faith is not based on what Christianity does for you practically or how useful it is.

AUDIENCE

Philosophically Minded