



REFORMED EPISTEMOLOGY

APOLOGETICS

A very brief summary



Argues people have a 'sense of God' and that unbelievers suppress this

PEOPLE

BIBLE

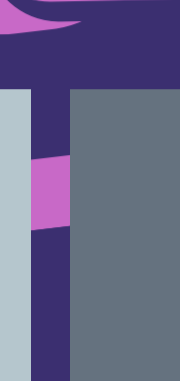
Argues that the Bible is the only standard for truth (not science or nature)



Says God's sovereignty plays an important part in a person coming to faith

GOD

STARTING POINTS



SCRIPTURE

Because of the Fall, man is too corrupt to use reason and logic.
Man is also too corrupt to come to God through science.

The Bible is the only starting point for knowing God.



IMMEDIATE AWARENESS

People have an awareness of God. But they willfully suppress this.

It takes a special act of the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and faith.

YOUR FOCUS

These topics are central to your defense of Christianity



Man

Man is too depraved to come to God through philosophy and science



God

It takes a special act of the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual understanding and belief



Theology + Doctrine

The Reformers were very much into theology and doctrine

YOUR ACTIVITY

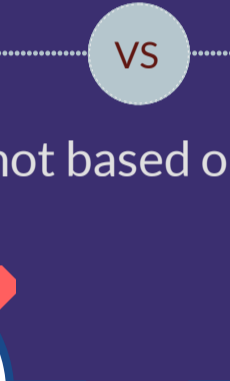


Activities that convince you Christianity is true



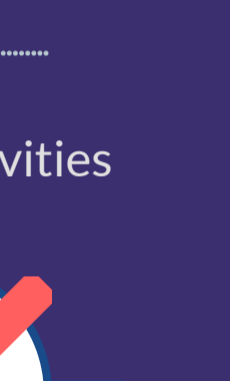
Abstracting

Your defense of Christianity involves abstracting or thinking theoretically.



Deducing

You like deductive reasoning. This goes from premise to conclusion; *a priori*.



Intuiting

You believe people (including you) have a *sensus divinitatis* or sense of God.



Putting Faith over Reason

You believe faith exceeds reason. A big part of why you believe is because God gave you faith.



VS

Your belief is not based on these activities



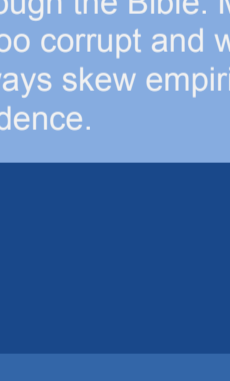
Emoting

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



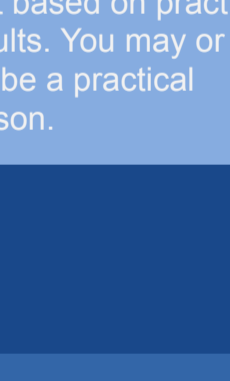
Inducing

Science is based on inductive reasoning. But you don't think science helps a person come to faith.



Comparing

Your defense of Christianity does not mainly involve comparing Christianity to alternative views.

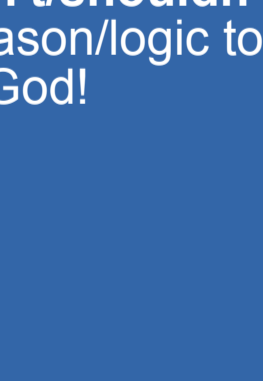
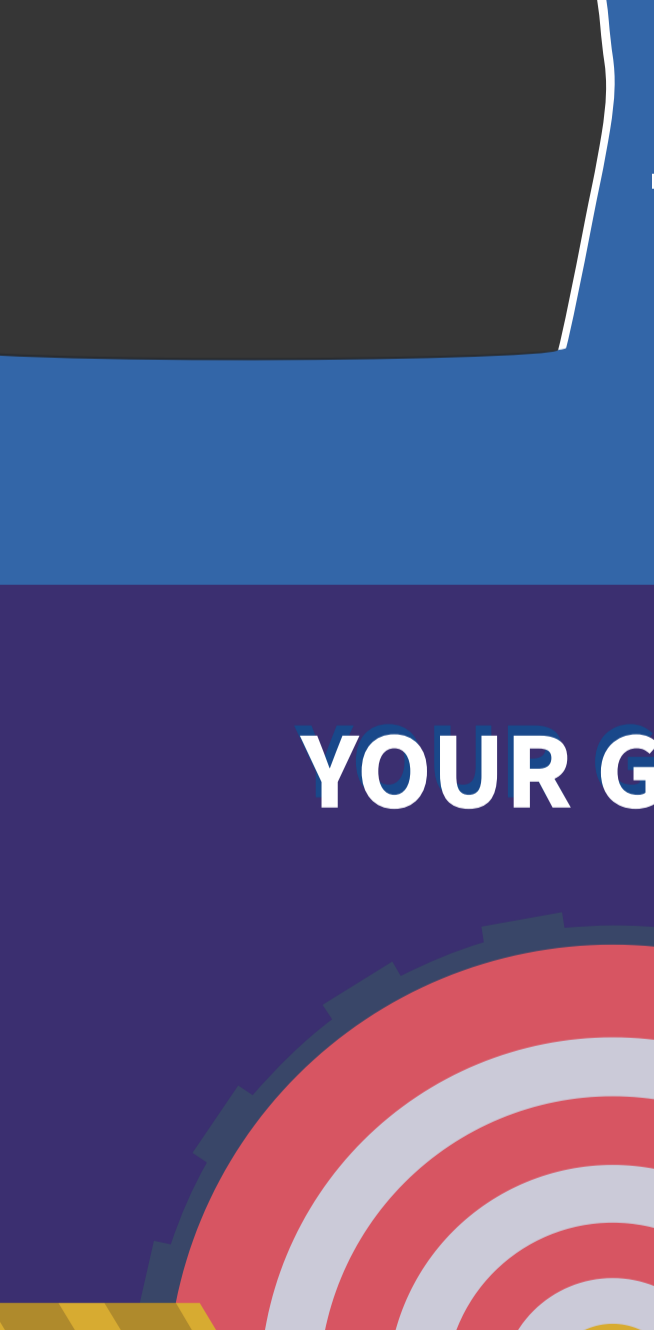


Verifying, Confirming

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

VALUES

Values in Reformed Epistemology

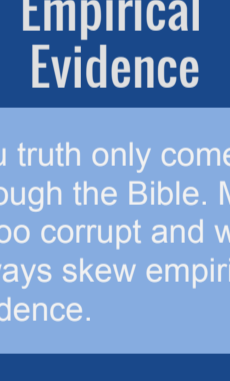


Theoretical Knowledge

You value theoretical knowledge and information (not just practical ideas)

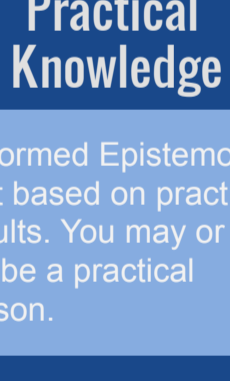
VS

Not as valuable



Experience

Experience plays little part in convincing you Christianity is true.



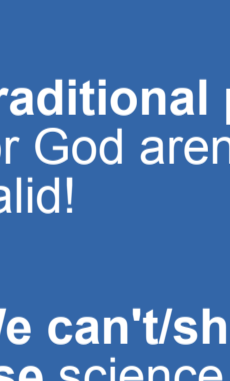
Feelings

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



Empirical Evidence

You truth only comes through the Bible. Man is too corrupt and will always skew empirical evidence.



Practical Knowledge

Reformed Epistemology isn't based on practical results. You may or may not be a practical person.

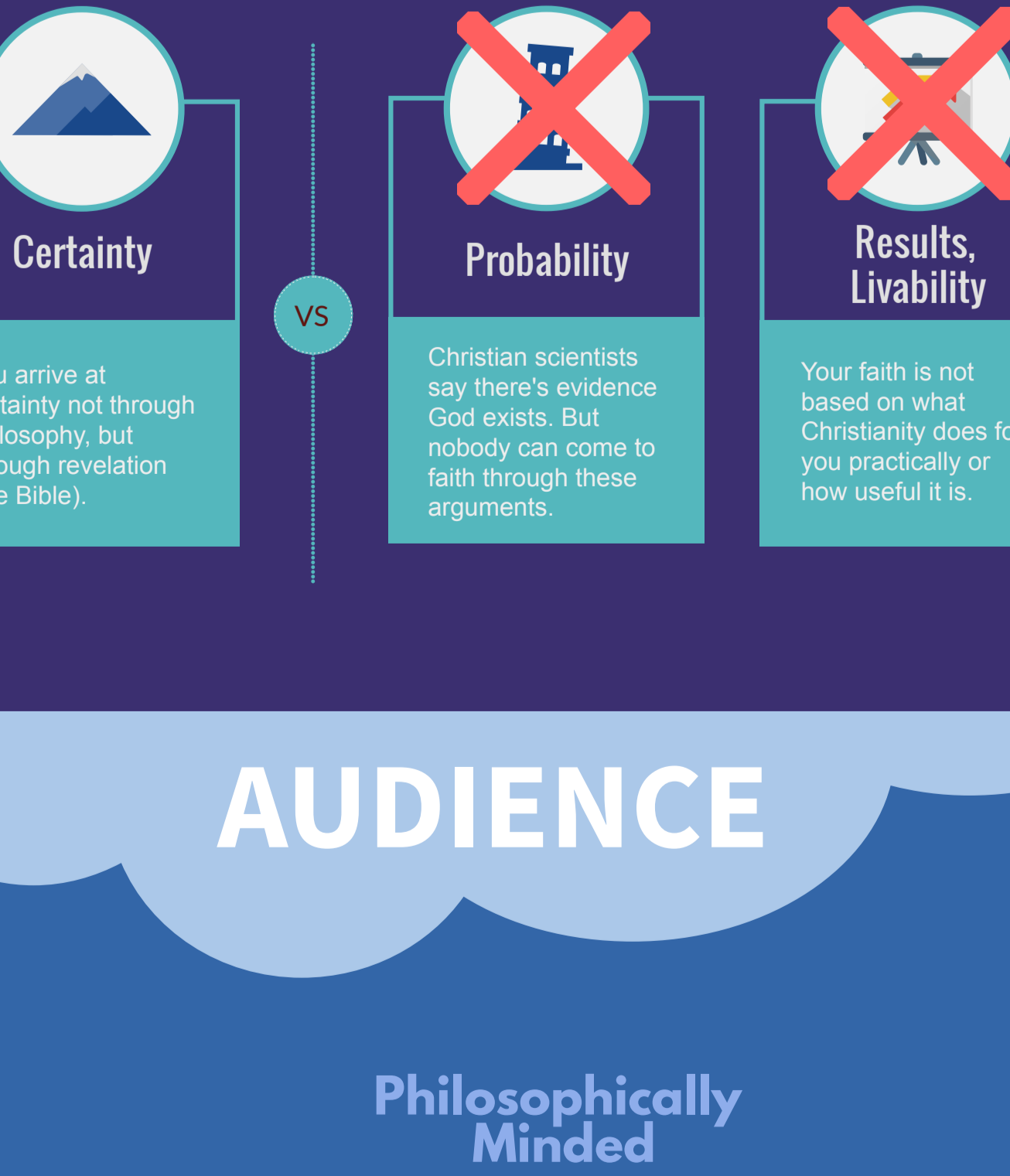
YOUR OPINIONS



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

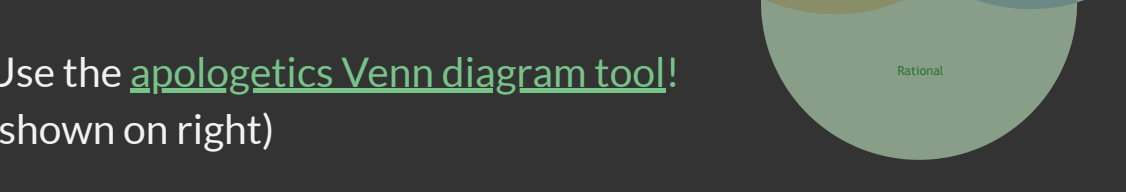
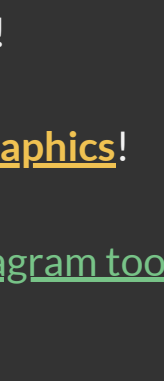
YOUR GOALS

What do you aim for in your proof of Christianity?



AUDIENCE

Philosophically Minded



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