

APOLOGETICS - DEFENDING OUR FAITH AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION

LESSON 2: NEUTRALITY - part II

REVIEW

NO NEUTRALITY

- +We have to “always be prepared” to defend our faith (1 Pet 3:14b-16 Acts 22:1 etc.)
 +We must not abandon our faith in argument in order to be “neutral”.
 +If we do it we are not neutral but stand on the unbeliever’s ground - sinking sand.
 +The unbeliever is not neutral and (Rom 1:18) we must not be (Prov.26:4).
 +Enlightenment philosophy denies dogma and absolute truth but we have to see that in doing this THEY try to create dogmas.
 +2 VERY influential applications of Enlightenment dogmas:
 1. Evolution 2. Deconstructionism

I. WHY is the unbeliever not neutral?

1. From the time of the fall, **enmity** is the controlling principle SEPARATING the believer from the unbeliever (Gen. 3:15; John 15:19; Rom 5:10; James 4:4)
2. Sinners seek to escape the *dogmatic truth claims* and *obligatory moral directives* of Scripture by resorting to an (alleged) neutrality in thought.
 - a. Such “neutrality” amounts to *skepticism* regarding existence of God and the authority of His Word.
 - b. They say that nobody knows for sure, therefore the Bible cannot be what it claims to be.

II. The fall of man arose out of this very “neutrality principle”:

1. God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:3)
2. Satan came to them with the temptation to **doubt** God by assuming a position of “neutrality” regarding God’s command: “Has God indeed said...?”
3. With this Satan tempts Eve to approach the question of eating from the forbidden tree in a neutral, unbiased fashion - **neutral and unbiased from God’s Word and command!**

4. This is the unbeliever's strategy - *suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18)*

III. You **must not** build your defense of the faith on the principle that led to the fall of mankind.

1. **Van Til:** "*...there simply is no presupposition-free and neutral way to approach reasoning.*"
2. **Bahnsen:** "*Reasoning is a God-given gift to man, but it does not grant to him any independent authority. The Christian concept of God takes Him to be the highest and absolute authority, even over man's reasoning: such a God could not be proved to exist by some other standard as the highest authority in one's reasoning. That would be to assume the contrary of what you are seeking to prove.*"
3. **E. H. Chapin:** "*Neutral men are the devil's allies.*" (re angel of light)

IV. We are called to think God's thoughts after Him, rather than setting aside God's thoughts as called for with the "neutrality principle" - Proverbs 1:7.

V. **No** area of life is neutral - even your intellectual life must be surrendered to Christ's authority.

1. **1 Cor 10:31:** "*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*"
2. We have been "*bought with a price*" (1 Cor 6:20; 7:23).

VI. We shall be "always ready to give a defense" (1 Pet. 3:15).

1. Have to train our children this: Deut. 6:7-9
 - a. God's Word shall guide our "hand" - daily labors AND
 - b. God's Word shall govern our "head" - thought processes AND
 - c. God's Word shall govern our mundane living - lying down, rising up...
2. **Mark 12:30** - taken from Deut. 6:5 right after "...the LORD is one" = **one system of truth** (other than pagan people surrounding Israel = fragmented phil.)
3. **1 Peter 3:15** - setting apart Christ in our hearts in defending the faith

THE UNBELIEVER IS BY NO MEANS NEUTRAL and WE MUST NOT BE NEUTRAL

Presuppositional Apologetics makes this clear - puts both presuppositions on the table and shows that it is only the Christian worldview makes sense and can explain everything. How do we show Christianity as truth: **Because of the impossibility of the opposite!**