

# Understanding and Defending the Reasons of our Faith in a World Gone Mad

## Session #6

1. The Scriptures must form the foundations of our knowledge and reasoning.
  - a. If God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything, then we can only know Him, His creation, and the purpose of His creation and all of life through Him and His revelation (Psalm 19:1).
  - b. Though the Scriptures do not address all things, all things must be viewed through the lens of Scripture if there is to be proper understanding.

[When “scientific” conclusions seem to directly contradict Scripture, we must be careful to fully analyze both propositions. It may very well be that our understanding of Scripture has been wrong, and the new discovery is bringing to us an aid in correction; but it may also be that the “scientific” conclusion is wrong, being based on faulty pre-suppositions, and must be rejected over against all “evidence”.]

- c. Christians must learn to think Godwardly about ALL things.  
[This must have implications for how we think about education.]
    - d. Even our apologetic must be informed and validated by Scripture.
2. We must not put God “in the dock”.
  - a. By an Evidentialist approach that puts God’s existence on trial (cf. Luke 16:27-31).
  - b. By demanding an explanation for God’s actions (cf. Job 38f; Romans 9:20).

“The ancient man approached God (or even the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man the roles are reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock... The trial may even end in God's acquittal. But the important thing is that Man is on the bench and God in the dock.”

C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*

3. Answering the “circular” objection to Scripture:
  - a. What is the Bible?
  - b. How does the world see the Bible?

4. Slippery slopes.

a. Darwinian naturalism.

b. Eugenics

Oliver Wendall Holmes (Buck vs. Bell, 1927):

“It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes. (Jacobson v. Massachusetts, 197 U. S. 11.) Three generations of imbeciles are enough.”

c. Medical care rationing (Communitarianism)

Ezekiel Emanuel (former health-policy adviser at the Office of Management and Budget, former director of the Department of Bioethics, NIH):

Communitarianism should guide medical care decisions. Care should be reserved for the non-disabled and refused to those “who are irreversibly prevented from being or becoming participating citizens...An obvious example is not guaranteeing health services to patients with dementia” (Hastings Center Report, Nov.-Dec. '96).

5. The rejection of God has inevitable downhill implications (cf. Romans 1:21f).

a. No God —→ No image of God

b. No image of God —→ No inherent dignity

c. No inherent dignity —→ No value

d. No value —→ No moral restraint

[What beliefs justified the enslavement and mistreatment of blacks in the South?]