

Starting with the Hard Stuff First

Bonus for knowing the terms. Double bonus for never using them in conversation with an unbeliever.

Presuppositions: Your beliefs or assumptions about the world and reality that you have. It is like your basic operating system on your computer. Turn it on, and what is already loaded in memory runs the system (Windows 8 or OS X Yosemite). If you presuppose that God does not exist, then you will look at life with that assumption. If you presuppose that miracles cannot happen, then anything that looks like a miracle can't be one by your definition. These are beliefs that are held without evidence or proofs; your starting point. Everyone has presuppositions.

MetaPhysics: In philosophy, this refers to the study of first principles of things; abstract concepts such as being, knowing, time, and space. A general view of the world,

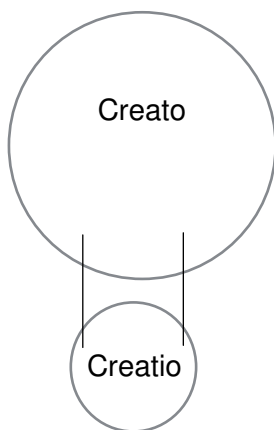
a world-and-life view. The fundamental realities that exist.

“Suppose we think of a man made of water in an infinitely extended and bottomless ocean of water. Desiring to get out of water, he makes a ladder of water. He sets this ladder upon the water and against the water and then attempts to climb out of the water. So hopeless and senseless a picture must be drawn of the natural man's methodology based as it is upon the assumption that time or chance is ultimate. On his assumption his own rationality is a product of chance. On his assumption even the laws of logic which he employs are products of chance. The rationality and purpose that he may be searching for are still bound to be products of chance.”

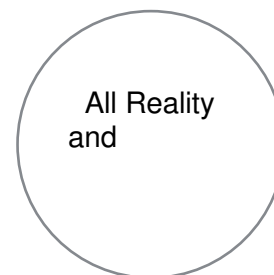
—Cornelius Van Til, *The Defense of the Faith* (P&R, 1972), p. 102.

One Circle People -VS- Two Circle People

Christian



Non-Christian



Apologetics is Directly Tied to Theology

Who is Man? Anthropology.

Man is created in the image of God.

Man is not created in the image of God.

Where do these presuppositions take you?

How Does Man relate to the rest of Creation?

The Fall of Man:

We are not the way we are supposed to be.

There is nothing wrong with us but ignorance.

Christology:

Who is Jesus? And why does it matter?

Salvation:

What are we saved from? And who saves us?

The Church:

How am I related to other people?

The End or Consummation:

Is history moving in a direction?

Natural Revelation and Special Revelation

Can people learn all they need to know about God without the Bible?