

## 'Cancellation of Christianity'

Pastor Theo Schaffer, August Apologetics 9/11/2022

- Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:15-25 – God supplies Definition
  - John 13:35 – Jesus Christ gives us a Definition
  - Romans 8:14, 2 Corinthians 6:18 – Paul affirms Definition
  - Genesis 3:1-7 – Definition distorted
  - Matthew 27:15-30 – Our nature to choose wrongly our Definer
  - Acts 11:26 – The world prescribes a Definition
  - Main Scripture
    - Ecclesiastes 1:9 “There is nothing new under the sun” (Repeat 7 Times)
1. Opening Statement
    1. By the end of my lecture, I will have proven to you that by today’s definition of Christian, I do not meet the criteria of its classification ... and I no longer want to be.
    2. Tools: “Mama Bear Apologetics”, “Cold-Case for Christianity and “God’s Crime Scene” by J. Warner Wallace”
  2. When discussing, debating, or sharing the faith against opposing views; use these 2 things
    1. Biblical Basis – provide scriptural passages, scriptures that defend the faith
    2. Rational Basis – using something other than scriptures, that can be verified or fact-checked, to defend the faith
      1. Examples of Rational Basis: Science Facts, Historical Facts, Analogies, Concepts
  1. Etymology and the Definition of “Definition”
    1. a statement of the meaning of a word or word group or a sign or symbol dictionary definitions.
    2. a statement expressing the essential nature of something.
    3. Latin ‘to set bounds to; 4c., 1640s Latin for Finis, De’ complete, 18th-century degree of distinctiveness in details in a picture

First, we must understand the Definitions of Worldviews: Using Biblical & Rational Basis

1. 10 Major Worldviews of God & movements of Religion
  1. Theism vs.
    1. Deism, Finite Godism, Atheism, Agnosticism, Pantheism, Panentheism, Polytheism, Gnosticism, Process Theology, Naturalism
  2. **Theism** – He’s the one true God
    1. Biblical Basis - He’s the true God Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4
    2. Rational Basis – The Anthropic Principle
      1. Anthropic Principle - **“The Anthropic Principle”** says, in cosmology, any consideration of the structure of the universe, the values of the constants of nature, or the laws of nature that has a bearing upon the existence of life. Basically there is a formula of ‘unusual coincidences between the values and constants of nature. unusual coincidences between different values of the constants of nature—quantities such as the mass of the electron, the strength of gravity, or the lifetime of the neutron. The significance, if any, of these coincidences is not understood. What is understood is that, if these quantities were slightly altered, then no form of complexity or life could exist in the universe.
    - 2.

- 3.
- 4.
3. **Deism** – God made the world but is not in it or does not interfere with it.
  1. Biblical Basis – Moses & the Burning Bush
  2. Rational Basis – Miracles, Spiritual Warfare
    1. (Famous Deists - Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin.)
4. **Finite Godism** - God is beyond the world but is limited in His abilities.
  1. Biblical Answers: In the Beginning was God ...
  2. Rational Answers: If He's limited, then Who limits him? Who provides potential? If he's limited maybe, we should switch teams
  3. **Atheism** - No God at all; 'There's a Universe just hanging in space. No one is holding it.'
    1. Biblical – Isaiah – There is no other God
    2. Rational
      1. Dr. Geisler's atheist friend; 'everything that has a beginning has a cause.'
      2. 5 Lines of evidence
        1. Law of thermodynamics
        2. Universe is expanding
        3. Radiation echo
        4. Einstein's general theory of relativity
        5. Great mass of energy
      3. Moral Law convo with a young unbelieving photographer
5. **Agnosticism** - such as a deity is unknown and probably unknowable :
  1. Biblical – John 1, Romans – He's revealed Himself
  2. Rational – Consciousness is about knowing; who designed it? Someone who valued being known
6. **Pantheism** - God is All aka 'New Age in the 1960s, we are gods
  1. **Biblical Response:** 1 Kings 8:27, Son of God was not a claim to deity
  2. **Rational** – There are a lot of NBA teams – all worshiped; but who made them?
7. **Gnosticism** is the belief that human beings contain a piece of God; we are gods
  1. **Biblical basis:** We know in part; Beloved now we are the sons of God
  2. **Rational Basis:** There are a lot of people at CMPD who get pieces of me, but that doesn't mean I've revealed myself to them. How many times have you gone on dates and sent your 'Representative'? God doesn't reveal everything to anybody.
8. **Panentheism aka Process theology** - God is the soul of the universe but the Earth is his body, and he is constantly changing. - Alfred North Whitehead
  1. **Bible** – I am the Lord your God I change not.
  2. Rational – N/A
9. **Process Theology** - Insists that God is in some respects is temporal, mutable, and passible.
10. Naturalism
11. **Polytheism** – Many finite Gods in the world. Or Henotheism - big & little Gods
  1. **Bible** - IF there are many, then there had to be one that created the many.
  2. The Creator has to be beyond the world, not in it.
  3. Rational Law - The Universe has 12 laws that God built & maintains

1. The Law of Divine Oneness
2. The Law of Energy
3. The Law of Vibration. ...

4. The Law of Correspondence. ...
5. The Law of Cause and Effect. ...
6. The Law of Compensation. ...
7. The Law of Attraction. ...
8. The Law of Relativity. ...
9. The Law of Polarity.
10. The Law of Rhythm
11. The Law of Gender
12. The Law of Action

1. **Moral Law** – Establish the concept of Moral Law
  1. Rational Basis using PT's questions –
    1. "Is Murder wrong?"
    2. "Is murdering a child wrong?"
    3. Where did we get the Law from?
  2. The Anthropic Principle

Second, we must understand the Definitions of World Religions:  
Using Biblical & Rational Basis

1. Overall List of World Major Religions and their Origin Dates

1. Christianity (31.2%)
2. Islam (24.1%)
3. Irreligion (16%)
4. Hinduism (15.1%)
5. Buddhism (6.9%)
6. Folk religions (5.7%)
7. Sikhism (0.3%)
8. Judaism (0.2%)
9. Shintoism
10. Daoism or Taoism
11. Muism/Sinism/Shingyo
12. Cao Dai
13. Korean Shamanism
14. Confucianism
15. Ba'Hai
16. Indigenous/Folk Religions/Other

1. Overview & List of 16 World Major Religions: Highlights
  1. **Hinduism** - Many forms of one God, Reincarnation cycles to become close to Brahman, Karma
    1. Hinduism personalizes Brahman & worships two of Vishnu's 10 mythical incarnations: Krishna and Rama.
    2. PT's Answers to Hinduism:
      1. Hinduism is Polytheistic; God is One. Christianity is Monotheistic and Theistic.
      2. Karma is 'spiritual equity or credit' earned ... Salvation cannot be, earned or worked for. It's by 'Grace through faith that we are saved.

3. Brahman requires worship of Vishnu's other incarnations or 'gods'; God is THE only God.
2. **Buddhism** Siddhartha Gautama, 4 noble truths, 8 paths to Enlightenment
  1. **Buddhism** teaches reincarnation, pursuing karma, going from life to life perfecting oneself through merit and good deeds through the Eight-fold path, which is absolute, righteousness, but the only absolute righteousness is Christ.
    1. We can never be righteous enough ... our righteousness is as 'filthy rags'. Our righteousness is gained through Christ Jesus.
    2. What happens to those who cannot reach Enlightenment or have never heard of them? What's the opposite of Enlightenment?
3. **Judaism** - Monotheistic, Torah, Pentateuch, 10 Commandments, Jesus is not the Messiah.
  1. Biblical Response: "Neither is there salvation in any other " (find that text)
4. **Christianity** - Jewish Man, who confirms His claim as God revealed, the Son of God, Messiah
5. Muslim, followers of Islam –
  1. Muhammad, who lived in modern-day Saudi Arabia 600 years after Jesus Christ, was approached by the Angel Gabriel, as Allah, or God's last great prophet, They follow the 5 Pillars of Islam, Mecca and Medina
  2. Debate Points
    1. In Islam it is blasphemous or a sin to claim that Isa, Jesus one of the messengers is God, Jesus in the earliest Gospel Mark 26:14 His claim to be God although the Shahadah (tawhid) doesn't mention it specifically.
    2. Muslims believe Allah cannot interact in the World but in Sura 20 mimics Genesis
    3. Quran doesn't recognize Jesus as the Son of God, but in Mark 14:26, Jesus quoting Daniel 7
    4. In the Quran, Sura 4:157 it says "Jesus was not killed" he was impersonated. But we have historical facts; Ceasar Augustus, Tiberias all have historical accounts in world history; and there are more scholarly documents about Jesus Christ than they.

Thirdly, we must understand the Definitions of Christianity: Using Biblical & Rational Basis

1. First, the Creed's as basis for God's existence
  1. Apostles Creeds - He's God, all-powerful, and mighty, He's One
  2. Nicaean Creed (325) - One God, almighty, He's the True God, One God,
  3. Chalcedonian Creed 451 - Lord Jesus Christ, One God, truly man and truly God, nature, and substance
1. 14 Fundamentals of the Faith: Dr. Norman Geisler
  1. God's unity
  2. God's tri-unity (or Oneness)
  3. Human Depravity
  4. Mary's Virginity
  5. Christ's purity
  6. Christ's deity
  7. Christ humanity

8. Necessity of grace
9. Necessity of faith
10. Atoning death
11. Bodily resurrection
12. Bodily ascension
13. Priestly intercession
14. Christ's bodily interpretation

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1. Breakdown of Christianity

1. 3 Main Branches:

1. Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant
2. (10) Main Protestant Reformation forming Denominations
  1. Anglican, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostal and Charismatic, Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Anabaptists
  2. Why so many? Why are we not ONE?
    1. There's NOTHING new under the sun; all searching for definitions.

1. (3) Several Different Christian-esque Beliefs and Movements

1. Mormonism

1. In 1823 a young Joseph Smith was visited by Moroni an angel about several golden plates ... but consider Joseph Smith being also polygamist and Mormon faith has features of Polytheism.

2. New Age Highlights

1. New Age movement, movement that spread through the occult and metaphysical religious communities in the 1970s and '80s. It looked forward to a "New Age" of love and light and offered a foretaste of the coming era through personal transformation and healing. Helena Blavatsky was an originator and Alice Ann Bailey was a practicing channeler, psychedelic user. Her books inspired the movement.

3. Hebrew Israelite brothers and sisters

1. Dispelling these beliefs

1. New Age = Jesus AND ...

1. Crystals, Sage, Smudging, Tarot Cards
2. Scripture

1. **God's Law concerning Pagan practices** - Leviticus 8, 9, 10, 18, Exodus 20, Deuteronomy and 12
2. God kills people who do it: Saul 1 Chronicles 10:13, 2 Chronicles 33:6
3. Acts 16:16-34 - Paul casts the Spirit of Python/Spirit of Divination out of a Woman
4. Galatians 5:19-20
5. In My Name - Mark 16
  1. This is important because Christ affirms His deity and Claim to Be God in this Chapter AND Confirms that in HIS Name

- only, Authority, should His people access the Spiritual dimension
- 2. God's ecosystem has infrastructure and organization; He has rules.
  - 1. Satan does too. Except it is an exact copy and the opposite.
- 2. New Age Christians' Belief Systems
  - 1. I don't need to go to church
    - 1. Jesus taught us that we should have communion often
      - 1. see Hebrews 10:25
  - 2. I don't need to be in a community or accountability group
    - 1. Koinonia, Ecclesia, family of families ... Jesus taught us about Mothers and Fathers.
  - 3. I don't need a Pastor
    - 1. Jesus talks about Sheep, and a Shepherd
      - 1. Jeremiah 3:15
  - 4. I don't need to Tithe
    - 1. Jesus taught to give to Ceasar and be resourceful for the mission, see Matthew 25
  - 5. I don't need to serve individually
    - 1. Jesus said if you don't serve, you're not any of mine see Matthew 25
  - 6. I don't need to invite anyone in my home
    - 1. Jesus taught about the Good Samaritan
  - 7. I don't need to mentor or anyone, I'm just going to do me
    - 1. Jesus taught to go and make disciples of Christ, see Matthew 28
  - 8. I don't need to witness or evangelize
    - 1. Jesus said that we were to take the gospel around the world
  - 9. I don't need water baptism, that is a work of the flesh
    - 1. Jesus was baptized, told us we must be born of water and the Spirit
  - 10. I smudge, use crystals, sage, astrology and to clean out bad spirits
    - 1. Jesus never taught us to use anything BUT His Name!
    - 2. We clearly have biblical examples OT, NT of how God feels about those who didn't.
  - 11. I don't need the baptism of the Holy Spirit
    - 1. If you have not my Spirit you are none of His
    - 2. You are of your father, the Devil
  - 12. I don't need to leave my tradition
    - 1. Jesus told us to beware the Leaven of the Pharisees
  - 13. I don't need to pray or read or worship that much
    - 1. Jesus taught us to pray, when to pray, how to pray
  - 14. Christ wants me to bear arms
    - 1. Jesus taught us that whatever sword you pick, if you live by it, you die by it.
    - 2. Jesus taught us to turn the other cheek.
    - 3. Jesus taught us that by this will all men know that you are my disciples
- 1. What not to do?
  - 1. Do not go into covenant with Christians who say "I'm Spiritual" or "God talks to me ..." but they have the beliefs aforementioned.
  - 2. Read: 2 Timothy 3:5-7

1. Hebrew Israelites aka BHI's Belief Systems
  1. The movement is about 130 years old; 1880's and 1890's
    1. (2) Men preaching - FS Cherry with a radicalized version, William S. Crowdee was more ecumenical and egalitarian (1896)
    2. In 1649 the British were inspired that they were; so back in the 18th century also claimed that THEY were the 12 Lost Tribes of Israel.
    3. The argument of who is the biblical people of God by blood; 'do you still think you're an Israelite?' Many BHI teachings use verses from the Book of Deuteronomy 28:15-68, the fifth book of the Torah, and the King James Bible to tell the history of Israelites from the Old Testament and to give a biblical explanation for the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.
    4. They have 10+ different camps of
      1. 'Reclaiming or Recovering their lost heritage or culture' - referenced in Jeremiah
      2. 'The day I woke up
      3. Some hold OT only, non-trinitarian, some throw Paul away
      4. Get shunned if you become a Christian or 'Deny your Heritage'
      5. Biblical familial theology vs. BHI family theology 'ethnic designation' or 'ethnic supremacy over another. The opposite of White Christian Nationalism.
      6. Israel of God group out of Chicago believes Gentiles can be engrafted in.
      7. In some
  2. Jacob S. Dorman explains, they "creatively manipulate traditions and ideas gleaned from a wide range of sources: Holiness/Pentecostal Christianity, the British Anglo-Israelite movement, Freemasonry, Mind Power, Theosophy, Judaism, the occult, and African American Christianity's deep association with the Hebrews of the Old Testament." African-American BHI groups also have no significant history with Ethiopian Jews (aka Beit Yisrael or Falahas) even though, as Dorman notes, "New York's main body of black Israelites called themselves **Ethiopian Jews from the 1930s to 1960s.**"
  3. What do?
    1. Some BHI groups are radical, others are welcoming; unless you are full prayed up and prepared you want to study up and avoid the street conversations
    2. Pastor Theo's apologetic questions
      1. Okay, if you are the Chosen people, then do you adhere to the legalism of the OT alone or do you follow God revealed in Jesus Christ?
      2. If you are the chosen people, what does the Shema say? How are you loving your neighbor when you speak of the same passionate as the White Nationalists?
      3. If you are the chosen people then explain the miracles, the rapture, and who are the Gentiles.
1. Closing: What do we do with the Christians?
  1. "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and beheld; service was joy." - Rabindranath Tagore
  2. "Jesus is ideal and wonderful, but you Christians, you are not like him." Bara Dada, brother of Rabindranath Tagore mid-1920s:
  3. Apparently, you can be a Christian and not follow Jesus Christ at all ...
  4. There's nothing new under the sun
  5. Whether Cain or Abel or Jesus or Barrabas ... mankind has always sought after definition, outside of Jesus Christ.

6. Today I make my case that the first Christians were called Christians at Antioch, but today, we are called Christians, too ... except, we do not resemble the ones called Christians in Antioch.
7. I'd like to argue, that these two groups ... the ones that follow Jesus and the ones mentioned above are not the same.
  1. And I will not, cannot, should not be defined within the same classification as them.
  2. Unless, they are not, what I truly am.
8. Last activity – look at your name tag ... what will you write on yours?

## Reference

The New Testament in actual historical chronological order

1. James – 50 A.D.
2. First Thessalonians – 52-53.
3. Second Thessalonians – 52-53.
4. Galatians – 55.
5. First Corinthians – 57.
6. Second Corinthians – 57.
7. Romans – 57-58.
8. Philippians – 62-63.
9. Colossians – 62-63.
10. Philemon – 62-63.
11. Ephesians – 62-63.
12. **Luke** – 63. - Synoptic Gospel
13. Acts – 64.
14. First Timothy – 65.
15. Titus – 65.
16. Second Timothy – 66.
17. **Mark – 66.** - First Synoptic Gospel written
18. **Matthew** – 67. - Synoptic Gospel
19. Hebrews – 67.
20. First Peter – 67-68.
21. Second Peter – 68.
22. Jude – 68.
23. Apocalypse (revelations)- 68.
24. John – c. 85.
25. Epistles (Letters) of John – 90-95