
A Christian Philosophy Of Learning: Application to Apologetics

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CRPC Adult Sunday School
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Class #7

<http://www.logicteacher.com/pol/>

Verities So Far

- P V^2_1 : A wise person will continually seek to acquire and apply truth for the glory of God. An unwise person will not.
- P V^2_2 : Truth consists of all the propositions that God affirms.
- P V^2_3 : A truth is still a truth, even if you do not believe it is true, or if you do not know whether it is true, or if God has not chosen to reveal that it is true.
- P V^2_4 : The starting point for acquiring and applying truth is regeneration.
- P V^2_5 : No person ever reaches a point where he should stop acquiring and applying truth.

Verities So Far (continued)

P V^2_6 : All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

— 2 Timothy 3:16-17

P V^2_7 : God does not need to reason from known truth to new truth, because He knows everything all at once.

P V^2_8 : Humans must reason from known truth to new truth, because we do not know everything all at once.

P V^2_9 : Human reasoning may be divided into two main types: deductive reasoning, which is evaluated as to validity and soundness; and inductive reasoning, which is evaluated as to strength, burden of proof, and standards of proof.

What is Apologetics?

P Word applied to defending the truth of Christianity.

P Scripture commands us to do this:

- ▶ 1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV) — But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
- ▶ *Apologia* is the Greek word that is translated as *defense*.

P Different approaches have been developed

- ▶ Quarrels among proponents of different approaches are common.
- ▶ Some of these quarrels resemble political mudslinging.

Homework (W²₆)

P For the apologetic methods you know, think about these questions:

- ▶ What are some of the similarities among the methods?
- ▶ If you had to come up with one phrase or sentence to summarize the major difference among the methods, what would it be?

Comparing and contrasting is a general method to use when studying any area in which there exist two or more theories that claim to be different.

Valuable Verity ₁₀

Proponents of a particular theory rarely give accurate descriptions of opposing theories, no matter how hard they try to be accurate.

Homework (W^2_6)

P For the apologetic methods you know, think about these questions:

- ▶ What are some of the similarities among the methods?
- ▶ If you had to come up with one phrase or sentence to summarize the major difference among the methods, what would it be?

Similarities Among the Methods

P Romans 1:16-21

- ▶ At some level, everyone knows that God exists.
- ▶ Unbelief is a moral problem, not an intellectual one.

P Ephesians 2:8-9

- ▶ Apologetic method does not save, God does.

Valuable Verity (V^2_{11})

All legitimate apologetic methods affirm these two propositions:

(1) Unbelief in the Gospel stems from sin,

not from intellectual problems with the message;

(2) Only God, by his grace, saves anyone.

Differences Among the Methods

P If you had to come up with one phrase or sentence to summarize the major difference among the methods, what would it be?

Five Apologetic Methods

E

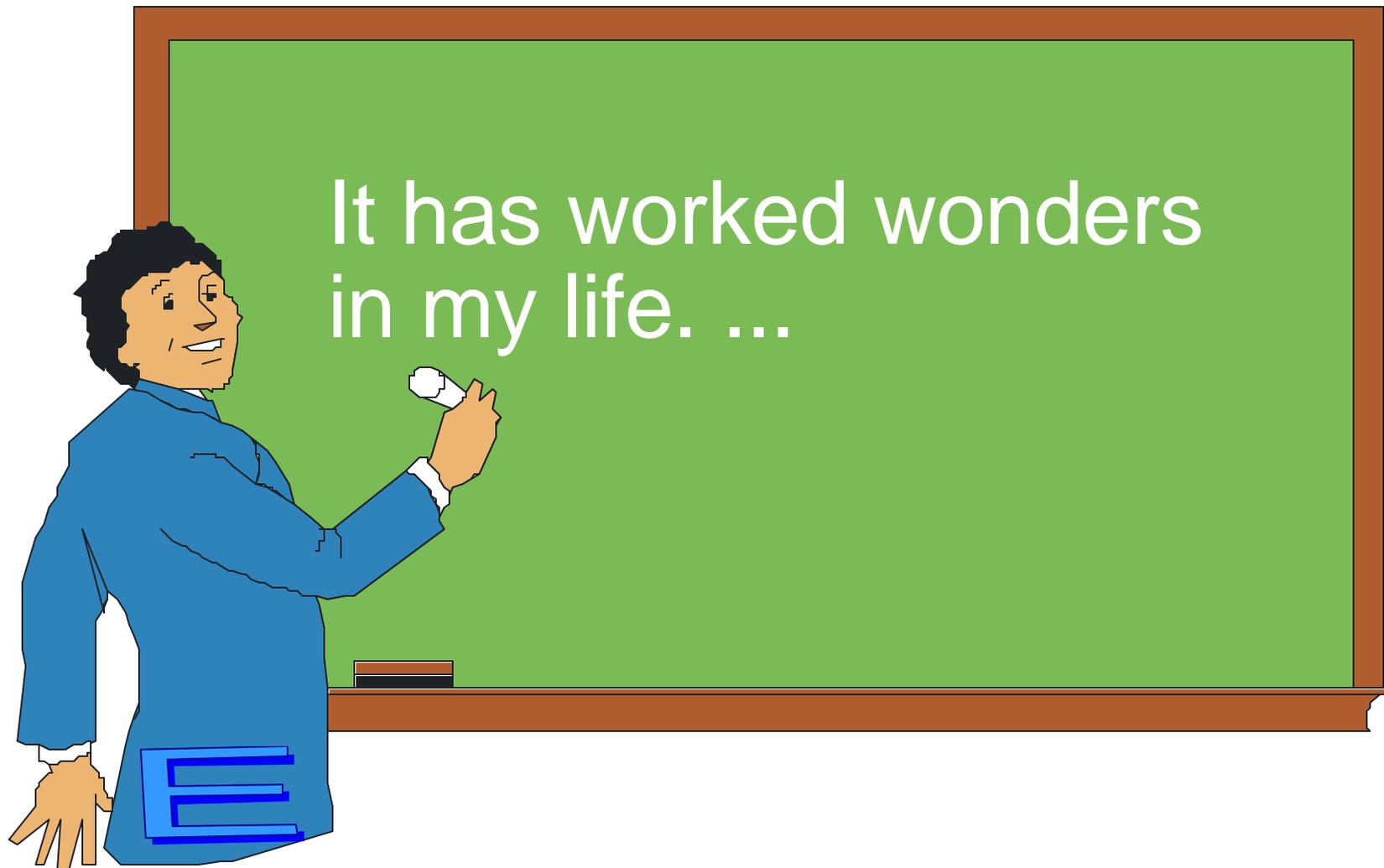
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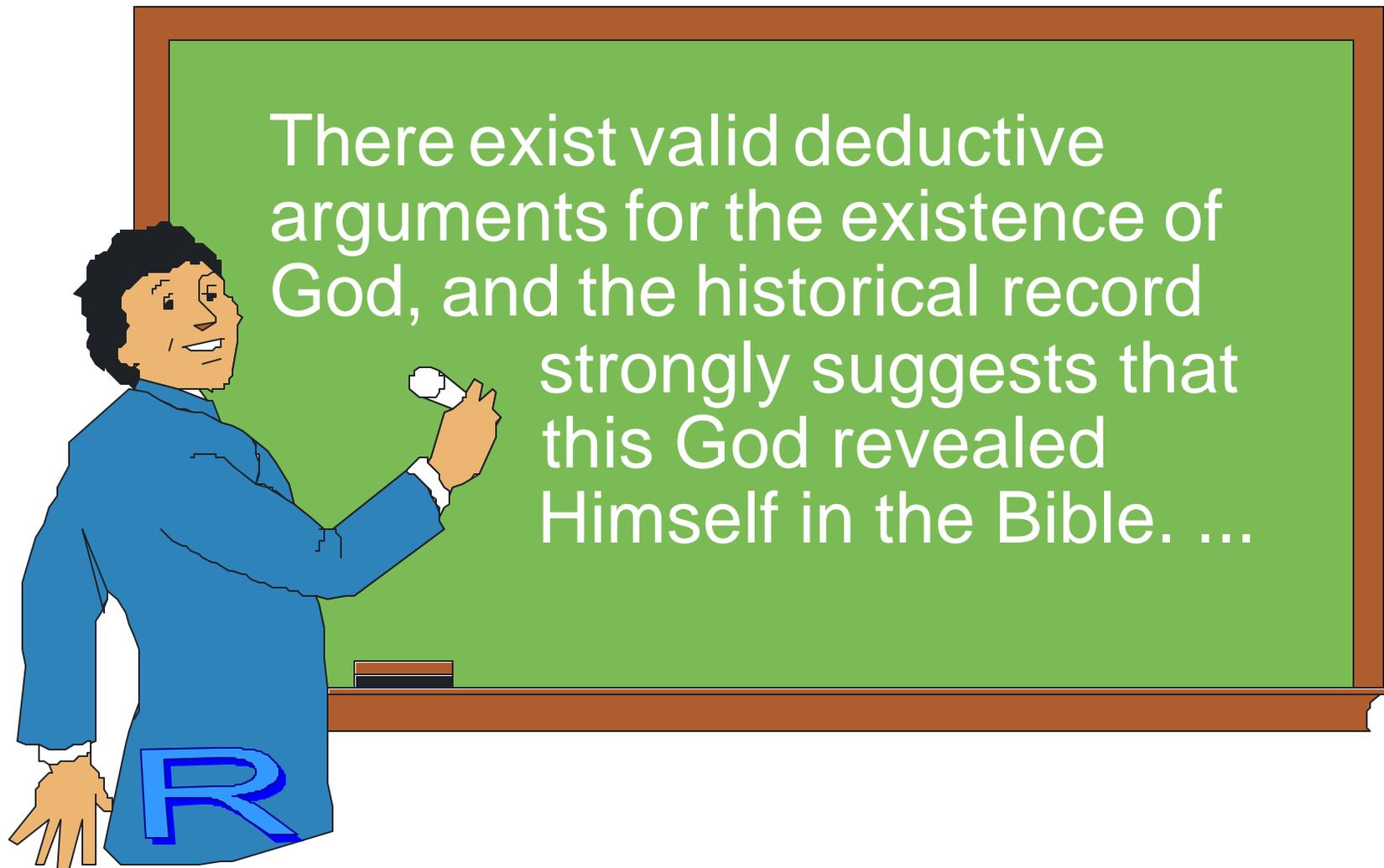
Christianity is True Because ...



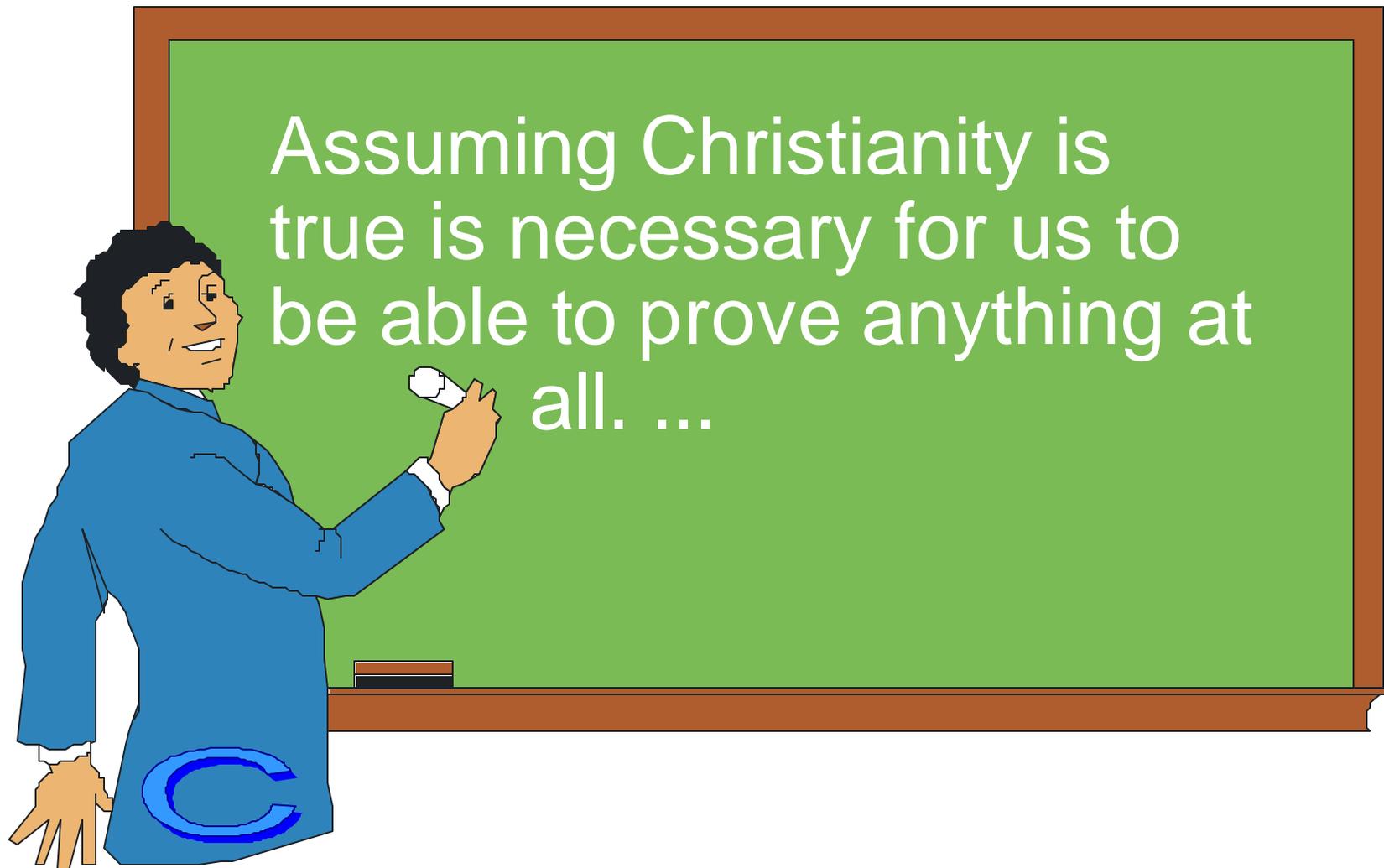
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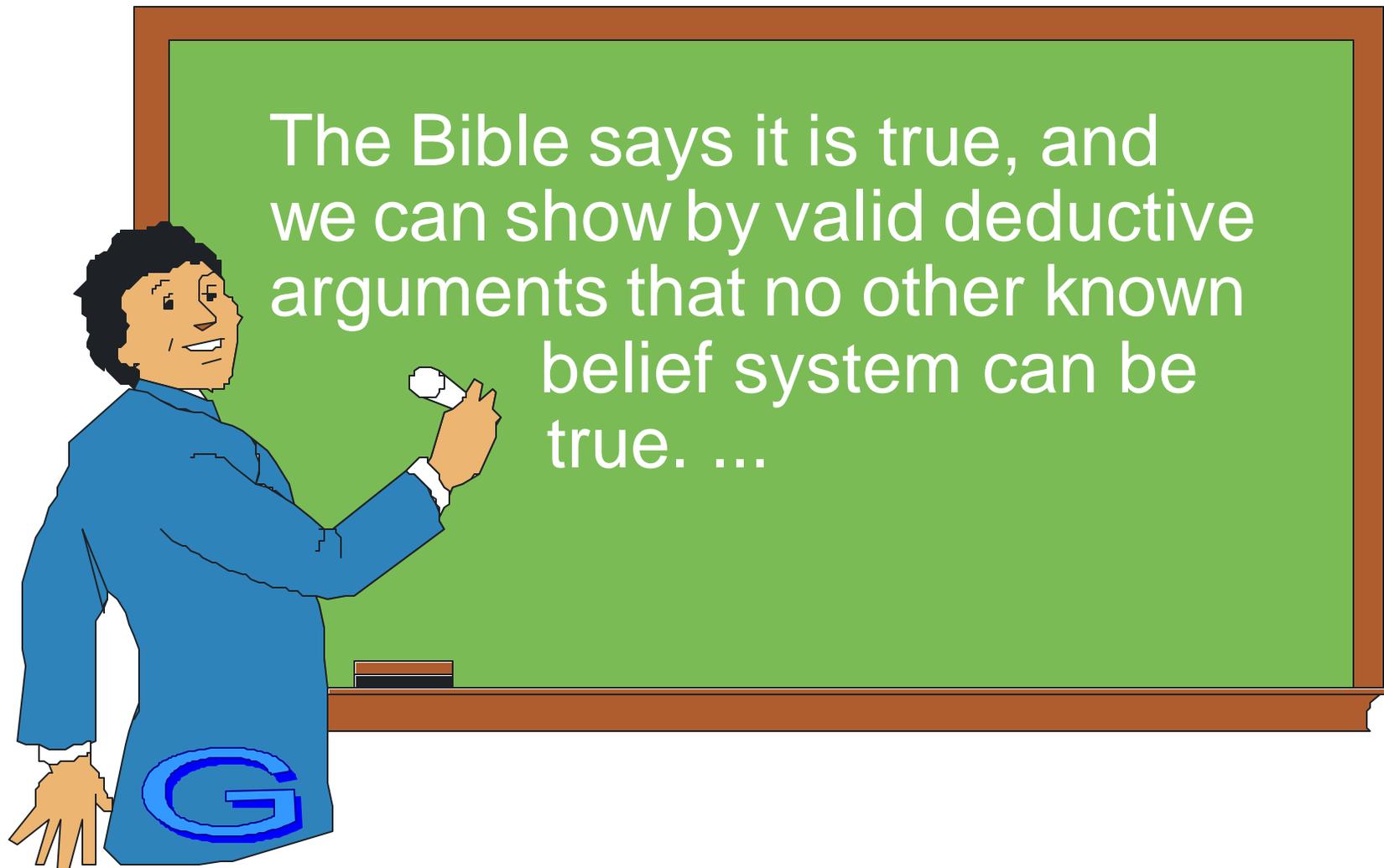
Christianity is True Because ...



Christianity is True Because ...



Christianity is True Because ...



Summary of the 5 Methods

- P E: Christianity has worked wonders in my life. ...
- P J: The historical record confirms much of what the Bible says. ...
- P R: There exist valid deductive arguments for the existence of God, and the historical record strongly suggests that this God has revealed Himself in the Bible. ...
- P C: Assuming Christianity is true is necessary for proving anything at all. ...
- P G: The Bible says it is true, and we can show by valid deductive argument that no other belief system can be true. ...

Differences Among the Methods

P If you had to come up with one phrase or sentence to summarize the major difference among the methods, what would it be?

Differences Among the Methods

- P If you had to come up with one phrase or sentence to summarize the major difference among the methods, what would it be?
- ▶ Standards of proof

Differences Among the Methods

P If you had to come up with one phrase or sentence to summarize the major difference among the methods, what would it be?

- ▶ Standards of proof
- ▶ Necessary assumed propositions

Some Closing Suggestions

- P Don't use an apologetic method that you do not understand.
- P Don't use an apologetic method that your listener cannot understand.
- P For 1 Peter 3:15, remember the beginning (“sanctify the Lord God”), and the ending (“with meekness and fear”), not just the middle part (“always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks”).

Next Week: Learning Science

P W_7^2 : Think about these questions:

- ▶ What is science?
- ▶ To what extent is science concerned with truth?
- ▶ Are there currently some subjects studied by scientists that would not be studied if all scientists had a Christian philosophy of learning?

P Quote ID challenge #2 continues

- ▶ Who said, “If a picture is worth a thousand words, then why did God give us His Word, instead of His drawings?”
- ▶ Two wrong guesses so far.