

IN GOOD FAITH: BASIC CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

Jesus: The Ultimate Apologetic

THEME: Everything about the faith revealed in Holy Scripture focuses on Jesus of Nazareth – Son of God, Son of Man, Redeemer of the world. You likely have heard the old dictum: “The Old Testament is the New concealed; the New Testament is the Old revealed.” Everything in anticipation became reality in Jesus. His acknowledged presence, teaching, actions, and impact on history combine to create an indisputable proof for the authenticity of Christian faith.

ICE BREAKER

1. Talk about your impressions of Paul and Lori Huyghebaert. How many in your group were able to attend the meet-and-greet event? How many heard Paul preach on Sunday? Teach a Bible class?
2. Have you begun including Paul and Lori in your personal prayers? Praying for their family’s move to Cumming? For their children to make an easy transition to a new home? For their “new arrival” (baby) in July?
3. Begin your time together in prayer for the Huyghebaerts.

THINK

1. The incredible impact of the person *Jesus of Nazareth* on human history is unprecedented. In what ways has his impact been obvious?
2. What evidence for the claims of Jesus do you see in his historical significance? How might an unbeliever explain his impact on history?
3. Before we look at two biblical texts, list some of the claims Jesus made for himself in the Gospels.

EXAMINE

Read [Philippians 2:6-11](#) to answer the following questions:

1. Scholars call this text the *Carmen Christi* (Latin: “Song to Christ”). It is likely a poem-song used by early Christians as a worship hymn.
2. What are the central claims made about Jesus in this hymn?
3. Which of these claims is the most astonishing to you? The most meaningful at a personal level? The most challenged in our day?
4. How would this hymn constitute a “confession” for the early church? Have you ever thought of our worship music as “confession”? What are some of the confessional themes in the music we use at Grace Chapel?
5. This poem affirms that “every tongue will confess” Jesus as *Lord*? When and how will this come to pass?

Read [Matthew 11:25-30](#) as background for the following questions:

1. In Jesus’ prayer, do you understand him to be dismissing or condemning someone who might be “wise” or “intelligent”? Explain.

2. What is the critical element in Christian faith – whether one is “wise” or, like Peter and John, “uneducated and ordinary” (cf. Acts 4:13) – that leads to one’s salvation?
3. What promise does Jesus make to persons who are “weary and carrying heavy burdens”? What does that promise mean?
4. How does this constitute another evidence for the claims of Jesus?
5. How might we communicate this message more effectively to people in our experience?

THIS WEEK: If Jesus is who we confess him to be, then *all* the claims of the Christian faith are true – God’s existence, the inspiration of Holy Scripture, and the reality of life after death. (Think about this for a minute – and explain why the statement is true.) As you go through the week ahead, realize that you are not only his disciple but a living witness to people around you that Jesus really does transform human beings and make our lives worth living!