

EXCELLENT WAY MINISTRIES
Knight's Notes #4: Dr. Andrew Knight

Title: *“Doctrine Drives Apologetics, Part II”*

Introduction: If apologetics is the art and science of making an argument for the faith, than doctrine is the antecedent of those arguments. Without doctrine there is no argument. There is nothing to defend, or advance.

Doctrine simply means, teaching, more specifically the teachings of the Bible. There is another name for this study, which we call systematic theology.

Sound Bible doctrines must first be established and put in place before apologetics can take place. Bible doctrines are the subject matter of apologetics. When building a building one must first lay a foundation. And the taller the building is the deeper the foundation must be set in the ground.

To further develop this illustration, the taller the building the more weight the soil must be able to support. To be clear, the buildings are the doctrines and the soil is the human hearts. The next doctrine that we will look at is the doctrine of Christ.

I. The Doctrine of Christ: Christology.

A. The doctrine of Christ is central to the Christian faith. The life, death, and resurrection of Christ are central to the human experience. Thus, the doctrine of Christ is central to the training and deployment of apologetics.

1.) **Virgin birth: Matthew 1:18** “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.”

2.) **Matthew 1:24-25** “Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”

- 3.) **Messiah prophesied: Gen. 3:15** “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”
- 4.) **The Father sent the Son: John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
- 5.) **Jesus' sinlessness: Luke 2:40** “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.”
- 6.) **Obedience to the Father: John 8:29** “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”

- 7.) **The Propitiation: I John 4:10** “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
- 8.) **He became sin for us: II Cor. 5:21** “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
- 9.) **Substitutionary Death: Hebrews 2:16-17** “For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”

10.) **Reconciliation: II Cor. 5:18-19** “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

11.) **Redemption: Mark 10:45** “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

B. Most heresies and or false doctrine centers on the doctrine of Christ, thus it is imperative that every Christian apologist' have a clear and sound understanding of the doctrine of Christ.

C. False doctrine and attacks will try to discredit or undermine the truth of the virgin birth of Christ, or the truth that Christ is without sin. Other attacks try to undermine divinity of Christ.

D. The attacks on doctrine that comes from direct attacks on the divinity of Christ try to undermine biblical salvation, thus it is imperative to understand that one's salvation is 100% what Christ has done for man and zero % what we did to obtain our salvation. This is the significance of propitiation. Christ paid the penalty for our sins.

II. The Doctrine of Salvation: Soteriology.

A. Salvation is central to apologetics as the Bible answers the three big questions that the human heart need answers to: Where did we come from; what are we doing here; and where will we spend eternity?

B. Many times Christ is attacked by way of the doctrine of salvation being undermined. Having sound adherence to the doctrine of salvation is of utmost importance.

C. The Christian apologist must hold himself to an even higher standard of biblical knowledge, and then the ability to communicate the doctrine of salvation clearly to the seekers as well as the skeptics.

1. **Soul evaluation: Rom. 6:23** “ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

2. **II Peter 2:4** “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”

3. The gift: Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

4. The decision: Rom. 10:9-10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

5. It's all God: Eph. 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

6. Faith confidence: I John 5:11-12 “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

D. Salvation, by grace, through faith alone, in the finished work of Christ is central to the Christian life, and the message of the Christian apologist.

Applications:

1. Study the Bible for more Scriptures that deal with salvation through Christ.
2. Memorize these and other Scriptures.
3. Begin getting comfortable communicating and explaining your faith in Christ to others.

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Where we began:

- Supremacy of Scripture
- Bible Doctrines #'s 1-5

Next time:

- Bible Doctrines 6-7

Followed by:

- Hermeneutics
- Apologetics of Isaiah