

An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

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“The Christian faith is not a leap of faith into the dark, but a step of faith into the light.”

“Christianity: Timeless truth for truthless times.”

Dr. Norman Geisler

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“Truth about reality is knowable.”

1. Defining Truth

“Truth is telling it like it is.”

“Correspondence to reality.”

2. Defending Truth

a. against false definitions

b. against false philosophies

Unaffirmability: whatever is unaffirmable is false

Undeniability: whatever is undeniable is true

DIRECTIONS: *Apply the claim to itself:*

- “I cannot express a word in English.”
- “No sentence is longer than six words.”
- “I do not exist.”
- “I exist.”
- “There is no truth.”
- “All truth is relative.”
- “There are no absolutes.”
- “All reality is just an illusion.”
- “Every effect has a cause.”
- “Truth is just a matter of your perspective.”
- “Beliefs are always historically conditioned.”
- “No one has the truth about reality. Reality is unknowable.”
- “Truth about reality is knowable.”

1. Truth is knowable

A. Skepticism

(1) _____

(2) _____

B. Agnosticism

<p>Evaluating the method:</p>	<p>1. Suspend judgment upon matters that cannot be conclusively demonstrated</p> <p>2. disagreement over “metaphysical” matters means endless controversy; prudent man therefore professes ignorance over such</p> <p>3. perpetual “open-mindedness” concerning metaphysical and religious matters is a virtue</p> <p>4. knowledge limited by what can be known empirically (positivism)</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3..</p> <p>4.</p>
<p>Evaluating the conclusion:</p>	<p>1. “Nothing is known or can be known of God”</p> <p> a. “nothing is known” is a soft-agnosticism that claims to be open to evidence</p> <p> b. “nothing <i>can be</i> known” is impervious to any evidence for God. (anything less than a theophany)</p>	<p>1.</p> <p> a.</p> <p> b.</p>

2. Truth is absolute

- **relativism** is _____.

- **the argument from cultural and individual differences:**
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Responses:

a.

b.

c.

Relativist: “Disagreement means there is no truth.”

Realist: “I disagree with you. Therefore, relativism is not true.”

- **the argument from tolerance:**
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a.

b.

c.

Ask the relativist: “Is relativism true only for you, or for everyone?”

Ask the relativist: “Is relativism absolute, or only relative?”

3. Truth is exclusive

- **pluralism** is _____

- if something is true, _____

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

e. 2+2; the world is spherical, etc.

f. the theistic God exists; Jesus is the only Savior