



Legacy Builder: How to Build a Christian Worldview that Sticks

SESSION 2: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

The Three Pillars for the Existence of God

- ▶ Creation (Romans 1:20, Psalms 19:1)
- ▶ Verified Testimony (i.e. we believe the Bible contains objectively accurate details)
- ▶ Personal Experience (we have experienced God)

Creation

- ▶ We look around the world and see God's fingerprints all over.
- ▶ We assert that the ultimate answer to the question "how did everything get here" is God-regardless of the descriptions of *how* it actually did get here.
- ▶ For the Christian, science is an incredibly powerful tool to describe *how* things became the way that they are today, but science ultimately does not have the power to describe the original cause.

Verified Testimony

- ▶ We believe that the record *about* God has been adequately verified in many different ways (i.e. historical inquiry has proved its truthfulness).
- ▶ We are *not* saying that every individual claim of Scripture has been independently verified, rather that enough has been verified that we can confidently trust its claims.
- ▶ We will handle this in detail in the next two sessions.

Personal Experience

- ▶ People who claim to be Christians usually have a defining experience with God.
- ▶ For some this experience is momentary for others it is a process.
- ▶ The common thread is transformative personal experience.

A Potent Combination

- ▶ None of the three pillars is enough in itself to generate or determine faith.
- ▶ The strength is in the common application of all three *together*.
- ▶ Each pillar relies on another to provide for a “critical mass” of faith.

Talking to people who don't believe

- ▶ Most people who don't believe God exists are not confirmed atheists, they simply don't really know.
- ▶ The simple act of asking them why they don't believe will tell you which "pillar" of belief you should respond with.
- ▶ The point is not to be able to argue them into belief, but have the tools to discuss your own faith rationally.

Talking about Faith in God

- ▶ In this session we handle a knowledge based question, but belief in God requires two critical components.
 - ▶ Knowledge
 - ▶ Relationship.
- ▶ Just like a worldview, people will accept your knowledge if they have a relationship with you.
- ▶ If you have no relationship knowledge will have only limited impact.

Next Session

- ▶ In the next session we will talk about why we base our worldview on the Scriptures.
- ▶ Why do we think that an ancient document has critical keys for our world today?
- ▶ How does it apply, and how should we read it?