

CCofSE Impromptu Apologetics

2019 - 2020 Topics & Subtopics

I. Theology: **Christ**

- **Deity**: Why is the divinity of Christ foundational to Christianity? Why is the incarnation of Christ so important? Explain what is meant that Jesus was “lord, liar, or lunatic”. Did Jesus identify himself as divine?
- **Messiah**: What does the Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah? How did Jesus fulfill these prophecies? Did Jesus identify himself as the Messiah? What does Jesus being the Messiah mean for Jews and Christians today?
- **Resurrection**: What happened during Jesus’ death and resurrection? Why is the resurrection foundational to Christianity? Refute the arguments against the resurrection—hallucination, swoon, and conspiracy theories.
- **Historical Reality**: Discuss the historical reliability of the Gospel accounts—bibliographical (quantity & quality of documents), internal (such as consistency of Biblical accounts), and external (sources outside Bible) evidence. How has the historical Jesus impacted our world today?

II. World Religions/Cults: **Hinduism & Buddhism**

- **Hindu gods**: Explain the Hindu pantheon of millions of gods—what is Brahman and avatars? Contrast these gods with Yahweh and Jesus. Why does Hinduism allow for belief in Jesus, while Christianity does not believe in Hindu deities? How does salvation through Jesus Christ differ significantly from that offered by Hindu gods?
- **Karma**: What is “karma” as understood by Indian religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism? Is the concept of reincarnation consistent with Christianity? How does the goal of samsara (the

cycle of birth & rebirth) differ significantly from that of Christianity?

- **Buddha vs. Christ:** Who was the historical Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama)? Identify the many ways Gautama differed from Jesus Christ. In what ways are there many buddhas? How does the goal of buddhahood (enlightenment) differ greatly from the salvation offered through Jesus Christ?
- **Four Noble Truths:** Explain the “four noble truths” as taught by Gautama. How do these teachings compare to the teachings of Christ? What is the Noble Eightfold Path, and how does it compare to the teachings of Christianity?

III. Current Issues: **Evil**

- **The Problem:** the existential or “real-life” problem of evil—when “bad things happen to good people”; the logical problem of evil—why does an all-powerful, loving God allow evil?
- **God’s Part:** Is God responsible for evil—what is the origin of evil? How does physical evil—like natural disasters, differ from moral evil? Has God created the best possible world?
- **Man’s Part:** How is mankind responsible for moral evil? In what ways are people responsible for the results of physical evil? What were the results of The Fall on God’s creation?
- **The Solution:** Why does God allow moral evil? Who has God sent as The Solution to evil? At the end of times, how will God resolve evil? In what ways can the church help solve the problem of evil?