

**APOLOGETICS / POLEMICS**  
**Sopron 2005**  
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**PURPOSE for APOLOGETICS/POLEMICS:**

**1) Public:**

- **Public: Purpose is to Define what you believe, Defend it, then Reverse the challenge publicly.**
- Often in a **hostile** arena (Most Muslims are passionate, resolute, and convinced)
- Often in a **public** arena: on the street, in meetings, putting your 'head above the parapet'
- An opportunity to learn your **apologetics/polemics** adequately, before applying it elsewhere

**2) Laboratory:**

- **Remember the West is a place for trial and error.**
- It's a place to **practice** what you have learned in class, in your research, in your discussions, etc.
- Expect to make **mistakes**.
- Don't be upset when you do.
- Simply **learn** from them, then 'get back up on the horse', and try again, or move on.
- You are a 'sojourner' here, so you won't be held **accountable** for your mistakes here
- Learn from those mistakes, and make sure you **don't repeat** them.
- This is ideal **preparation** for your chosen field.

**3) Mosaic:**

- **Muslims are not monolithic, but multi-faceted.**
- "What is good for Abdul may not be good for Ahmed"
- Thus must '**dovetail**' (apply) responses for each culture, and/or personality.
- Forces you to meet the **need** of whoever is standing in front of you.

**4) Focus:**

- **The Audience is your primary goal, not always the one you're speaking to**
- So, concentrate on them, and not on the **detractors**.
- By focussing on them, you **neutralize** the detractors, some of whom are professionals.
- Use the surrounding **crowd** to substantiate your view.

- **Look** at them, **speak** to them, **question** them, **involve** them, and **employ** their support.
- Your larger audience are the ones you are trying to **convince**.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

### **1) Pray:**

- **Always have a prayer covering.**
- Remember this is a **battle** you are in, and thus requires '**weapons not of this world**'.
- **Prayer is** to be employed: **before**, **during**, and **after** the time you are 'in battle'.

### **2) Pairs:**

- **Try always to go in twos, or more.**
- One person to **speak**, the other to **pray**.
- Preferably, one should be a **veteran**, with experience.
- Roles can be **flipped**, depending on the need, or time.

### **3) Rule of Thumb 1**

- '**Scratch where they itch**'
- To know them, you will need to first listen to them.
- Yet, maintain **control** at all times.
- Don't let them set the **agenda**.
- Stay away from '**shopping list** questions'

### **4) Rule of Thumb 2:**

- '**Scratch where they don't itch**'
- You must go beyond friendship, to introduce the **Gospel**, which will confront!
- Assume a heated **response**.
- The Person-hood of Jesus will **confront**, a worthy battleground.

### **5) Response:**

- '**3 C's**' = '**Quick**', '**Concise**', yet '**Comprehensive**'
- We tend to **take our time**, so learn to give '**2 minute sound-bites**' (usual attention time)
- We tend to be **verbose**, so be **succinct**.
- We seek **erudition**, so seek **simplicity** (remember '8th grade educational level')
- We tend to be '**fuzzy thinkers**', so learn to be **logical**.

### **6) Praxis:**

- **There is a need to be multi-faceted in your response.**
- We must use both **Apologetics** and **Polemics**.

- We must be both **Irenical** and **Confrontational**
  - So that the **onus** is not always on us, but back where it belongs...on them.
  - Not 'either' - 'or'; but '**both**' - '**and**'
- 7) **Mannerism:**
- **Be Gentle, yet Passionate, Be Considerate, yet Forthright.**
  - **How** you say it is almost as important as **what** you say.
  - Show **confidence** in your material, and in your decisions.
  - Do not employ '**Character Assassination**'.
  - Our material is too good, and our testimony too precious.
  - Don't waste time on **innocuous argumentation** (i.e. "Don't throw pearls before swine")
- 8) **End-game:**
- **Bring discussions around to the Gospel**
  - (i.e. 'How could God have a Son', 'Is Islam or Christianity peaceful and tolerant')
  - Remind yourself who is in charge, and for whom you are there [**the Lord**]!

### **EXTERNAL LOGICAL FALLACIES:**

**-typical arguments afforded by Muslims  
(with help from Robert Morey)**

#### **1. "B B" Paradigm:**

- Make any **claim, without sourcing** it in scripture.
- You become your **own highest authority**
- (i.e. Benazir Bhutto: 'Islam is relevant to 20th c.')

#### **2. Imposition Paradigm:**

- Take **your premise** and **impose it on another**
- (i.e. 'Tanzil' revelation, Where does Jesus claim 'I am God', Jesus' seeming inferiority, Paradigm of a 'dualistic' God)

#### **3. Smokescreen/Red Herring:**

- Tactic to **divert attention** from the weakness of ones own premise, with the intention of putting us on the defensive
- (i.e. trinity, Crusades)

#### **4. Historical Precedent:**

- The **new** may **test the old**, and **takes precedent over it**
- applying '**law of abrogation**' [S.2:106; 16:101] to scripture
- (i.e. Scriptural corruption, Jesus of faith vs. Jesus of history)

#### **5. Cyclical Argument:**

- Assume in your **premise** what you are going to state in your **conclusion**

- (i.e. Muhammad gives authority to the Qur'an, and vice versa)
- 6. False Analogy/Equivocation:**
- Comparing two things as if they are **parallel** when they are **not**
  - (i.e. revelation, Jesus, Allah)
- 7. The Fallacy of Irrelevance:**
- Introducing issues with **no logical bearing** on the subject, as a proof of credibility
  - (i.e. 'Sura like it', Qur'anic science, Celebrity conversions, Islamic growth)
- 8. Phonic Fallacies:**
- The phonetic **sound** of a **word** should not be used to twist its meaning
  - (i.e. Allah = Allelujah, Muhammad = Machmad, Mecca = Bacca)
- 9. Straw Man Arguments:**
- Put **false arguments** into **mouth** of your **opponent**, then knock them down
  - (i.e. S. 5:116, Catholicism)
- 10. 'Might is Right' Fallacy:**
- **Loudest** and most **long-winded** supposedly wins the argument
  - (i.e. 'Poke, Punch & Pinch')

**INTERNAL LOGICAL FALLACIES: (typical arguments afforded by Christians)**

- 1. Losing Friends:**
  - It's a **risk**, but with gentleness & respect (1 Pet.3:15-16) they will stay
- 2. Appearing judgmental:**
  - **Being Good = Being Christian**, thus non-Christians are not good?
- 3. We must use only Dialogue, never stoop to confrontation:**
  - **Dialogue:** We cannot talk to non-Christians about the Gospel unless we **first talk with them, & so earn the right to be heard.**
  - **Confronting:** *>demolishing arguments and taking captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ' (2 Cor.10:4-5).*
  - showing the holes in peoples thinking (in Lk.20:20-39; Acts 17:28-29)
  - i.e. lead out on a current topic, and go on into >deeper things = (news, sports etc...)
  - Start with their ideas & lead them 'to their logical conclusions'
- 4. Don't know the answers to the questions:**
  - **Learn them, and assimilate them, then introduce the Gospel thru them!!**

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) ↓

### HAS THE BIBLE BEEN CORRUPTED?

- **When/Where? Before Muhammad?**
- **Qur'an** disagrees:
- **"God's word does not change"**  
(Suras 3:2,78; 4:135; 6:34; 10:64; 18:26; 35:42; 50:28-29).
- **"No difference between Bible & Qur'an"**  
(Suras 2:136; 3:2-3).
- **"Muslims must ask Christians"** (Suras 10:94; 21:7)
- **"Dispute not with the Christians"** (Sura 29:46)
- **"Muslims are to believe in the Bible"** (Sura 4:136)
- **"Christians are to believe in the Bible"** (Suras 5:46-47, 68)
- **No warning against its corruption.** In fact the argument did not exist until Ibn Hazam (1064), showing that it is a **11th century Muslim polemic.**

### After Muhammad?

- If the Bible was changed **after** Muhammad's life, what do we do with:
- (1) **24,000 Manuscripts:** in Greek, Latin and other languages, **230** MSS before 6th century.
- (2) **15,000 translations:** Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic, Georgian, Ethiopic, Nubian,
- (3) **2,135 lectionaries** from the 6th century,
- (4) **86,489 quotations** of N.T. in **early church father's letters** 32,000 before 325AD (recreating all the N. Test. but 11 verses)
- **Who** did it, Jews or Christians? **How** do they have identical scriptures?
- **Why** no record of corruption, and why authentic ones not hidden?
- If changed then why not expunge embarrassing stories  
(i.e. Peter's denial of Christ Matt.26:69-75; Paul's disputes with Barnabas = Acts 15:39)?

### HOW CAN JESUS BE THE SON OF GOD?

- In Qur'an Sura 2:177 'Ibn ul-sabeeli' means 'son of the road' = traveller
- Qur'an allows possibility of God's son (Sura 39:4)
- **S. 6:101; 5:17 = biological vs. inheritance birth** - Lk.2:49 = 'begotten' = monogenes = one & only (unique), not 'genao' = birth
- **Revelation! Divine titles for the Son:**  
Gen.1:26-27; Deut.6:4; John 1:1,18; 5:18, 8:58-59, 10:30-33, Is.44:6 & Rev.1:8,17-18

### HOW CAN GOD BECOME A MAN?

- Not man becoming God ↑, but God becoming man ↓ (Phil.2:6-8)
- **Can God do anything, in his omnipotence? Thus, can he become a man?**  
Yes! So not how, but why! To Erradicate **SIN**
- Must remind them of **theophanies** (burning bush, Angel with Abraham, Jacob wrestling etc...)

- Mk 14:61-62 = Son of the Blessed One, and 'Son of Man' = Dan.7:13-14 = **authority, glory, sovereign power, worship, dominion**
- Issa - Jesus = **God's Word** (S. 4:171; John 1:1) God's Word = uncreated: Sura 85:22 (uncreated eternal tablets = mother of books S.43:4)
- Jesus = '**Spirit proceeding from God**' (S. 4:171), '**supported** by the Holy Spirit' (S. 12:87; 58:22), **Spirit** = Essence of God (S.2:253)
- Jesus= **unique: Sinless** (S. 19:19), **born of virgin** (S. 21:91), gave **life** to birds & the **dead, healed**, miraculous **knowledge** (S.3:49)

### HOW CAN GOD BE ONE OF A TRINITY?

- **Quran** has **mistaken trinity, including Mary (Sura 5:116)**
- Many mysteries we can't explain (i.e. God's **omnipresence, eternity, virgin birth**, or **electricity** etc...), yet we accept them
- Trinity is a theological term to explain what we read in scripture, coined by Tertullian (2nd cent.)
- **Tri-unity** (Tertullian 125 A.D.). **Not mathematical** (1+1+1, or 1x1x1, or  $\infty \times \infty \times \infty$ ) but **organic**: (i.e.: son, father, husband, brother, pen, water, sun, author, egg, body mind and spirit); not **Sabellian** (3 consecutive 'gods') nor **Arian** ('man becomes God')
- Explains **love** (requiring an object), not found in a one-dimensional monad Allah!
- **Islamic trinity = Allah (S.13:16; 14:10), Ruh (S.50:16; 56:83), & Eternal tablets (S.85:22)**
- **Baptism of Christ** (Luke 3:22)=**voice of God** the father, **dove as spirit** of God, and **Son as Jesus**. (Matt.6:11-13 = **Lord's Prayer**)

### DID JESUS REALLY DIE ON THE CROSS?

- **Eye-Witnesses** needed to corroborate what happened. **Three eye-witnesses** vs. one supposition 700-900 years later (4 gospels vs. 1 Quran), who do you believe? Eyewitnesses
- **Extra-Biblical evidence:**(**Thallus** = 50AD, **Josephus** 80-90AD, **Tacitus** 80AD, **Pliny the Younger** 112AD)
- **Qur'anic Confusion: Sura 19:33,15** "Blessed be on me, the day I was born, the day I Die, and the day I rise again" (Jesus & Yaxya)
- **Moral Confusion:** (Sura 4:157-158) Is God **deceitful**, since he uses another man to die in Jesus' place?
- **Theological Confusion:** (S.6:164; 53:38)? Can one pay for another's sin, since this goes against the Qur'anic objection on **atonement**

### HOW TO COMPARE CHRIST WITH MUHAMMAD?

- **Jesus fits 1st c. (O.T.- Dead Sea Scr.- Gospels- Josephus) – Pharisees** (Hillel & Shamai), not **Saducees** or **Essenes**, & confronts **Law & Temple**
- **Muhammad fits 5-8th c.** (Sectarian writings, Syriac mss.) [progression of **Mary**, Digression of Joseph]
- **Nestorians (5th C.): Jesus** = God-chosen **human** (sura 3:42-48, 51, 59; 4:171; 5:116-117;19:30, 34-35)

- **Monarchists: God has no children** (sura 4:171; 19:34)
- **Docetists (1st C.): Jesus didn't die** (sura 4:156-158)
- **Monophysites - Cholloridian (4th C.) Maryolatry:** Mary in the Trinity (sura 5:116)
- **Christ = Qur'an** as primary revelation, while **Muhammad = Gospel writers** as secondary (like Hadith, Sira, Tariq, Tafsir)
- Acts 10:43 = only **Jesus' name gives forgiveness**, not Muhammad's, Deut.18:18 shows who Moses thought a **true prophet** was = John 1:45; 5:46; 6:14; Acts 3:21-23 verifies this 'prophet like me' was Jesus.

### **HOW CAN WE KNOW WHO IS A TRUE PROPHET?**

Four Criteria for Prophethood in the Bible:

- 1) Does he use God's personal name?:  
Adonai (descriptive) = 340 times  
Elohim (generic) = 2,000 times  
**Yahweh** (personal) = 6,823 times
- 2) Does his **message** conforms to previous revelation?
- 3) Are his **predictions** verifiable?
- 4) Is he in **Isaac's race**?

### **ISN'T SIN THE SAME IN ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY?**

- Muslim **Sin = horizontal**, (Satan at fault) easily forgivable (note the consequence of Adam & Eve's sin in Eden – S.2:30-39; 7:19-25; 20:116-123).
- Adam's disobedience, was forgiven, yet they were banished to earth-Why? No relationship existed/God, so none lost.
- Sin = breaking God's law - no corruption, just weakness to Satan's seduction
- Islam = Good works balance out sin, then conversely bad works balance out good. So if a wife has done 300 good days then is she allowed to do one bad day of adultery?
- Christian **Sin = vertical**, our fault (Rom.3:23), deserves death, to have justice (Rom.6:23).
- Adam was sinless (perfect) = in relationship with God.
- He sinned->(imperfect) knew right & wrong, broke trust, hid, evicted from Eden, lost relationship with God (Men & nature)
- God = pure & holy (Ps.77:13; 99:9) & can have no sin in His presence (Hab.1:13)
- Thus, sin separates us (Is.59:1-2)

**(1Pe.3:15-16)**

- **15 But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess.**
- **16 Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience, so that those who slander your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame when they accuse you.**