

THE CHURCH, MISSIONS, AND APOLOGETICS

Presented by the Evangelical Ministries to New Religions and
the International Society of Christian Apologetics | May 2-3, 2019

BREAKOUT SCHEDULE, *May 2*

Workshop 1: May 2, 3:30pm

The Doctrinal Legacy of the Latter Rain Movement and the New Apostolic Reformation – David Clark

Room 272

Description:

The New Testament book of Hebrews chapter 13:9 exhorts Christians, "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines." We live in a time where sound doctrine and Biblical discernment are really lacking in many Christian churches and violating God's requirements according to Holy Scripture. This workshop will cover the doctrinal roots and history of the Latter Rain movement. It will also explore the teaching legacy of the aberrational contemporary branches that have really impacted mainstream historic Christianity into the twenty-first century.

When we examine the doctrine of the Faith movement, the Third Wave and New Apostolic Reformation, we will find heretical deviations with a legacy of teaching errors and practices assaulting historic Christianity. We need to provide sound doctrine with apologetic Biblical replies to defend the faith once delivered to the saints.

How Logical Principles are Used in the Bible – Irina House

Room 276

Description:

Part of the difficulty in evangelizing cults today is that due to the influence of existentialism and postmodernism the mindset of many Christians today more easily embrace illogical and contradictory ideas. They are focused on one's feelings as the standard of truth. Yet cultists (non-eastern) generally still adhere to the belief that the Scripture presents truth about God and theology, while also failing to understand that many of their objections against orthodox theology come from an improper use of logic. I will set forth in my talk the importance and nature of logic in Scripture, and then provide examples of the use of logic in the Bible by Jesus and the apostle Paul. I will also provide answers to cultists who seek to undermine the truth of Scripture by use of irrational arguments.

The Biblical Basis for the Physical Resurrection – Andre Traversa

Room 293

Description:

In this workshop, Andre Traversa will identify multiple Biblical passages which support a literal, physical resurrection of the human body, as opposed to a new body that replaces the earthly one. We will begin by discussing Platonic dualism, and how this view of humanity differs from the Christian view in which body and soul are united, as opposed to the body being a mere container for the spirit or soul. We will also discuss how the Platonic or Gnostic view has made inroads into contemporary culture. The rest of the workshop will focus on Biblical passages. This doctrine is undertaught and even many Christians don't realize the Bible teaches it.

Workshop 1: May 2, 3:30pm, *continued*

Status of Research on the Shroud of Turin – Robert A. Rucker

Room 202

Description:

Research on the Shroud of Turin appears to indicate that it probably is the authentic burial cloth of Jesus. The mysteries of the Shroud, such as image formation and carbon dating, are best explained by a burst of radiation emitted from within the crucified body that was wrapped within the Shroud, consistent with the disappearance of Jesus' body from within his burial shroud.

Apologetics as Theology – Collin Brendemuehl

Room 269

Description:

It used to be that apologetics was a part of theology (1 Peter 3:15). Aquinas dealt with Hellenistic issues that would challenge the doctrine of the trinity. Augustus H. Strong dealt directly with challenges such as Ritschl's ethics.

Many books on history and philosophy today will serve as a defense of the faith, but avoid touching on direct theological questions. Some hardly even touch on Scripture itself. They intentionally separate themselves from these issues. This class will propose a solution involving reintegrating apologetics and theology.

Workshop 2: May 2, 6:30pm

Corrupting Young Minds: A Philosophy of Intellectual Education.” – Dr. Jason D. Crowder

Room 216

Description:

We need a reckoning in our day. The death of accountability in our time does not serve us as a nation, or as individuals who aspire for more. Teaching students how to think will help them to discern what to think and why it is preferable over the alternatives. There are lessons to be learned from philosophy. Because ideas have consequences, philosophy matters. We all have a philosophy. What shapes yours?

Success in Apologetics Necessitates a Proper Understanding of Faith and Reason. – Ed Payne

Room 276

Description:

Alvin Plantinga presents a method by which to “bridge” the best of faith and reason, but a historical and philosophical analysis demonstrates with Augustine that neither faith nor reason is prior and that understanding this relationship is crucial to any success in modern and postmodern apologetics.

The Gospel According to Rome – Sharon Lawlor

Room 278

Description:

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, salvation is rooted in the Sacraments. These pillars of the Church are established in the trinity of Tradition, the Teaching of the Magisterium, and the Catholic version of Scripture (including the Apocrypha). This workshop will examine the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the role of the Virgin Mary as intercessor from a biblical, evangelical perspective and will give an update on the movement to have Mary declared Co-Redemptrix.

Objects Have Histories – Julia Stubbs

Room 269

Description:

In this paper, I argue that histories are intrinsic to objects. Though this proposal is unorthodox in the philosophy of time, there are several independent reasons to believe some aspects of a thing's history is intrinsic to it: origin essentialism, evolutionary science, and the nature of causation are three such cases. The aim of this paper is to open a conversation largely unexplored in the philosophy of time literature. This model avoids the pitfalls of Lucretianism and distributional properties. I conclude that objects have histories, and histories are truthmakers for propositions about the past.

A Short History of Self-Appointed Mediators – Don Veinot

Room 219

Description:

All down through history there is a pattern of false teachers and cults leaders inserting themselves into the position of mediator between God and those who would follow Him. These self-appointed mediators define and dispense salvation or at persuade others to believe that is within their domain and commissioning. We will be comparing First Century religious leaders, the Roman Catholic Church and modern-day cults.

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Workshop 2: May 2, 6:30pm, *continued*

Discovering the Hidden Ones – Developing an Apologetic/Evangelistic Model to Hasidic Jewish Women –

Dr. Amy Downey

Room 272

Description:

Hasidic Jewish women are among the most unreached of the unreached people groups because no one has sought to pierce the oppressive veil of misogyny and religious ignorance that perceives women as unworthy of God's attention. No one until now.

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BREAKOUT SCHEDULE, *May 3*

Workshop 3: May 3, 8:45am

For All of Life: Five Theses on Christian Education – Dr. Donald T. Williams

Room 293

Description:

Christian education should be more than just avoiding the evil influence of the secular Academy. It has a critical role to play alongside the church and the home in transmitting the biblical worldview to the next generation and in showing its relevance by applying it to life. It is not a luxury; it is a necessity of a new Reformation is to make its presence felt, so that the church can fulfill its mission. It is also a necessity if we are to produce a new generation of apologists who can increase the health and power of apologetic ministry in the church. Therefore, I offer five theses toward a Christian philosophy of education.

The Do's and Don'ts of Talking to Mormons at Your Door – Keith Walker

Room 276

Description:

How should Christians lovingly respond when Mormons come to their doors? This workshop gives tips on what to do and how to avoid common mistakes most Christians make. An emphasis is made on how to keep the conversation going for long-term evangelistic opportunities.

Effective Apologetics: Is There More to it Than Minimal Facts? – Dr. Robert Stewart

Room 295

Description:

Some contemporary apologists make extensive use of what they term “minimal facts.” In this paper, I will explain the minimal facts method and then critique it as to its strengths and weaknesses. I will conclude by discussing situations in which it is best used.

Defending Inerrancy: Retrospect and Prospect – David Farnell, and William Roach

Room 216

What the Qur'an Really Teaches About Jesus – Prophet of Allah or Savior of the World? – James Walker

Room 219

Description:

Jesus is revered in the Islamic faith, but is he the same Jesus Christians claim as their Savior? James K. Walker takes you through more than a dozen major similarities and differences between the Jesus of the Bible and the

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Workshop 3: May 3, 8:45am, *continued*

Jesus of the Qur'an. As Islam continues to spread rapidly across the globe and increases opportunities for personal interaction with Muslims, it's vital that you handle all matters of the Christian faith with wisdom and discernment.

Classifying Apologetic Methodologies: Examining Different Approaches to Defending the Christian Faith – Dr. Phil Fernandes

Room 273

Description:

Scholars usually classify apologetic methodologies in such a way that often leading apologists do not fit neatly into any category. This paper will explore the many different ways Christianity can be defended. Problems with the usual way apologetic methodologies are classified will be noted, and suggestions will be made to improve the situation.

Workshop 4: May 3, 1:00pm

The New Buddhism of Mindfulness – Dr Douglas Groothuis

Room 219

Description:

Is "mindfulness" a neutral technique for focus and quieting the mind or is it a way Buddhism is insinuating itself into current culture? We will assess the meaning of mindfulness in light of these questions.

Regaining Conscience: Reacting to the Repacked Conscience of (Ex)cult Members – Dr. Henk Stoker

Room 273

Description:

While cults change their members to willful obedience through repacking their conscience, apologists should find ways to address the content of the conscience.

Guarding the Door – A Cautionary Tale – and a Call for Discernment – Janice Lyons

Room 293

Description:

While the church focuses on evangelism, foreign missions, and the culture war, it is important to tend the home fires. Right under our noses the Aquarian Conspiracy, the blueprint for the New Age movement, has become normalized. Alternative medicine is a vehicle to introduce syncretism into the church, damaging the message of the gospel. The church needs to reaffirm the need for discernment and test everything. Be watchmen on the wall.

The Free System Corollary as a Response to the Abductive Problem of Evil – Dr. Peter Morgan

Room 211

Description:

Examining the intersection of free systems with free will for the implications of theodical suggestions better equips theistic free will defenses to address the abductive problem of evil.

Why They Blow Themselves Up. A Christian Response to Islamic Suicide Bombings – Dr. Phil Roberts

Room 216

Description:

What causes Islamic suicide bombings? This workshop investigates the theological rationale behind this tragic phenomenon. Dr. Roberts will also provide a Christian response.

Using Apologetics to Reach People of Other Religions – Pastor Rich Day

Room 295

Description:

This workshop will assist those present with using apologetics to reach those in their ministry fields in effective ways. By providing tools and materials that can help even those with limited knowledge of other religions to have meaningful discussions with people from other religious backgrounds, it is hoped that this can be an effective way to add to the ministry toolbox of those present. The information provided will be available not just to those in attendance, but also online for future use as personal reference and as tools to give others to help them as well. The main intention is to aid others in taking the discussion to others in effective and meaningful ways.

Workshop 5: May 3, 3:45pm

Presuppositional Apologetics: A Defense – Peter Van Kleek

Room 293

Description:

The Presuppositional Method of Apologetics escapes the accusation of vicious logical circularity while at the same time providing for a robust accounting of Christian epistemology.

Of Humanzees and Chimhumans: A Response to David Barash's Chimera Research Proposal.” – Dan Wiley

Room 273

Description:

*The purpose of my presentation is to present a response to David Barash's proposal for human-animal chimeras, and more particularly the creation of a new species that crosses human DNA with that of certain primates, e.g., chimpanzees, as presented in his work *Through a Glass Brightly: Using Science to See Our Species as We Really Are*. It will present a short summary and critique of Barash's worldview, which argues that humankind's desire to see itself as the center of the universe has stunted its intellectual growth and potential, and will follow with a response to his proposal. Ultimately, this presentation will prove that Barash's justification for human-animal chimera research is logical incoherent, scientifically questionable, and ethically dangerous.*

Old Wineskins: The Repackaging of Ancient Heresies in Contemporary Cults” – Dr. Herschel Wayne House

Room 219

Description:

It is commonly said that there are no true new heresies but they are merely restatements of heresies that were held in the earlier periods of the church. Consequently, groups like the Latter-day Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses, United Pentecostals, The Way International, Christian Science and other groups (especially more mystical and Eastern religions), essentially hold to the ancient heresies with some variations. I propose to examine the assumed truth of the claim to determine in what ways, if any, early patristic heresies are similar or different from contemporary Christian heresies. I confine my study primarily to North American groups.

Dr. Francis Schaeffer on Doubt in the Scope of the Work of Apologetics – Dan Guinn

Room 216

Description:

This paper explores the problem and types of doubt we may encounter, in others and even ourselves, as we seek to utilize Apologetics in Evangelism and how Schaeffer dealt with these matters himself. Additionally, illustrations from Scripture such as Job, the Centurion father, the father of the Prodigal son, along with illustrations from Christian history, such as Mona (Augustine's mother), et al. will be explored to give a rounded, holistic and Biblical perspective. The topic will both cover analysis of Schaeffer's thought and also suggest prescriptive points for us as we seek to strengthen our Apologetics and ministry.

Workshop 5: May 3, 3:45pm, *continued*

The New Age Ghost Dance – Stephanie Potts

Room 295

Description:

Radicalized, native, apocalyptic Millenarian Movements, like that of the Ghost Dance movement of the late nineteenth century, were primarily focused on eradicating the white man. However, the twentieth century's fusion of Native American spirituality with Buddhism, under the umbrella of the New Age, has caused native millenarianism to evolve into a global environmentalist death cult that calls for the eradication of climate-change deniers. These two religions are considered Earth religions, and they are united around the belief that God permeates nature with humanity being an integral part of nature. In this presentation we will discuss how Christian missionaries can respond to this movement and effectively reach indigenous peoples.

Conversational Worldview Apologetics in Everyday Outreach – Joseph Whitchurch

Room 276

Description:

Sharing and demonstrating practical conversational approaches to outreach and apologetics evangelism. Perspective worldview cards, the "Two ways to Live" questions and graphics, a helpful non-technical overview or cumulative case apologetic, very fun and doable with Q&A.