



Confident Christianity

ICMDA Evangelism and Apologetics Course

Saturday 20 February 2021

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Medical and Dental Association)

Confident Christianity

- Developed by Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) in the UK and used to train thousands of medical students and doctors
- Taught usually over 8 hours (a day or weekend) in interactive format
- Compressed into three hours for ELF
 - Only 10 of 20 modules presented
 - Each 20-30 minute module compressed to 10 minutes or less plus Q&A
 - No small group interaction or looking up Bible verses
 - But I will indicate as I go how to teach it in longer format
- The PowerPoint and videos are available after the session

A 3D blue puzzle piece is the central focus, set against a white background with faint grid lines and other puzzle pieces. The text is centered on the blue piece.

Module 1

Understanding Worldviews

What is a worldview?

Worldview

n. German *Weltanschauung*

- 1.** The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.
- 2.** A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group.

The image features a diamond-shaped iceberg floating in a blue ocean under a blue sky with light clouds. The iceberg is divided into four horizontal sections. The top section is above the water line, while the other three are below. Each section contains a title and a question. The word 'Values' is highlighted in yellow, while the others are in white. The background is a gradient of blue, from light at the top to dark at the bottom.

Behavior

How do I live?

Values

What is good and right?

Beliefs

What is true?

Worldview

What is REAL?

Six questions that determine a worldview

1. What is God? (theology)

2. What are human beings? (anthropology)

3. What is the best way to discover truth? (epistemology)

4. Why do human beings have significance? (value)

5. How do we decide what is right and wrong? (ethics)

6. What happens to a person at death? (afterlife)

The four major worldviews

- **Pantheism** - Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age
- **Polytheism** - Tribal religions, Animism, Folk Religion
- **Theism** - Islam, Judaism, Christianity
- **Atheism** - Naturalism, Existentialism, Nihilism

The four major worldviews

	Theism	Polytheism	Pantheism	Atheism
God	Personal Supreme Being	Multiple Gods - ?High God	Impersonal Life Force	Doesn't exist
Man	Made in God's image	Lower rational beings	Part of the totality of being	Clever Monkeys
Truth	Absolute, revealed by God	Grounded in tradition	Subjective, felt intuitively	Discovered
Value	Created by God	Place in hierarchy	Part of the totality of being	Arbitrary
Morality	In line with God's nature	Determined by the strongest	What feels natural	Arbitrary
Death	Judgment and heaven/hell	Enter spirit world	Reincarnation	Nothing

Exercise - Module 1

- What is most common worldview in your cultural setting and why?
- Discuss in plenary



Worldview distribution

World

British medical students

Atheism

13%

65%

Pantheism

20%

5%

Polytheism

11%

0%

Theism

56%

30%

Worldview conclusions

1. There are at least four different worldviews
2. They are all held by intelligent well-educated people
3. They are mutually exclusive
4. No more than one can be true
5. Many intelligent people hold to a worldview that is not actually true

A 3D blue puzzle piece is the central focus, featuring the text 'Module 2 Distinctives of Christian Theism'. It is surrounded by other puzzle pieces, some of which are white with faint outlines, suggesting a larger assembly. The lighting creates soft shadows, giving the pieces a three-dimensional appearance.

Module 2
Distinctives of Christian
Theism

Exercise - Module 2

- What makes Christianity distinct from all other religions?
- Discuss in small groups
- Feed back in plenary



What makes Christian theism distinct?

- The authority of the Bible (Old and New Testaments)
- The trinity and the divinity of Christ
- Christ as the only way of salvation
- The death and bodily resurrection of Jesus
- The centrality of the cross - Christ's substitutionary death
- Salvation by grace through repentance and faith

The divinity of Jesus Christ

- John 1:1-2,18
- John 20:28
- Acts 20:28
- Romans 9:5
- Phil 2:6
- Titus 2:13
- Hebrews 1:8
- 2 Peter 1:1

The divinity of Jesus Christ

- He created the world (John 1:1,3, Hebrews 1:2, Colossians 1:16)
- He existed before his birth (John 1:1-3, 17:5)
- He claimed that he was the only way to God (John 14:6)
- He claimed to reveal the father (John 14:9)
- He claimed to be the 'son of God' (Luke 22:70)
- He called himself 'I AM' (John 6:35, 8:12,24,58, 11:25, 14:6,18:5);

The divinity of Jesus Christ

- He claimed to be one with God (John 14:8-10)
- He accepted worship (Matthew 2:2, 28:17, Mark 5:33, Luke 24:52, John 9:38)
- He accepted the title LORD (Hebrew YHVH = Greek kyrios)
- He forgave sins (Matthew 1:21, Mark 2:7-10, Luke 7:48, Acts 4:12, 5:31);
- He claimed that he would rise from the dead (Mark 8:31)
- He said he would return as judge (Matthew 25, Mark 8:38, John 5:22-30)

Other religions/worldviews are counterfeits



Questions on Modules 1 & 2

- 'Understanding Worldviews'
- 'Distinctives of Christian Theism'





Module 3
Pre-Evangelism

Levels of Conversation

1. Cliché conversation
2. Reporting facts
3. Expressing ideas and judgments
4. Expressing feelings and emotions
5. Completely open

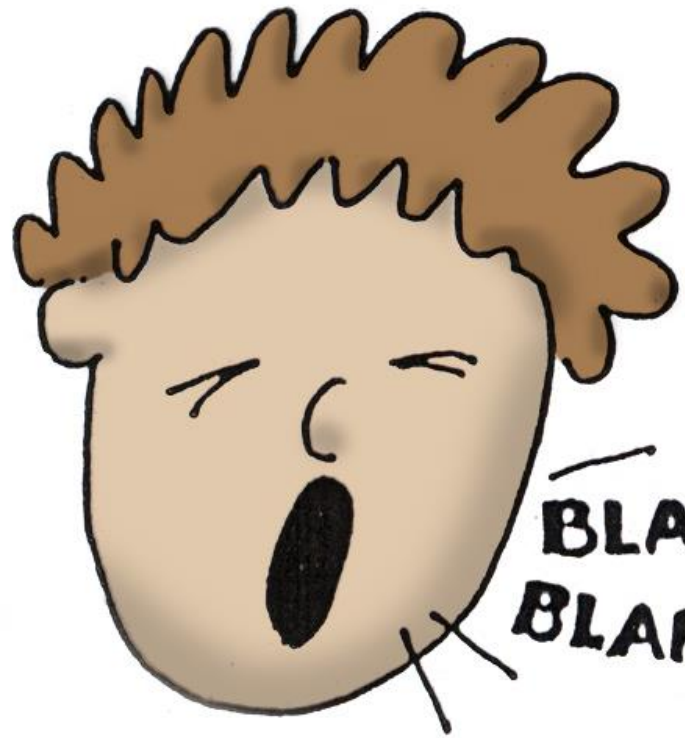
Building friendships

- Finding common interests and experiences
- Spending time together
- Finding a joint task to do together
- Helping them out and letting them help you!
- Having deep heart to heart conversations



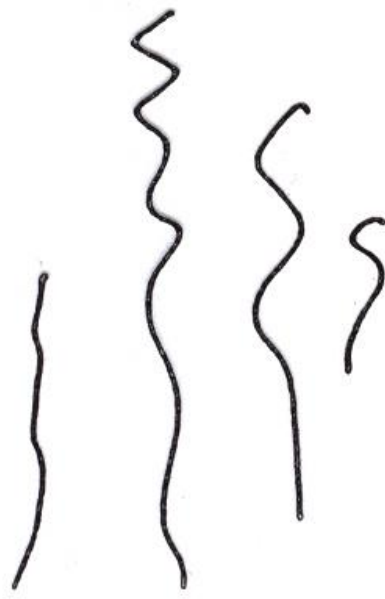
pluralism
relativism
EXISTENTIALISM
MATERIALISM
reductionism
individualism
agnosticism
naturalism

poststructuralism
deconstructionism



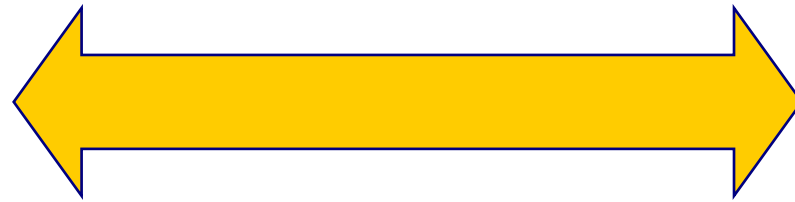
BLAH
BLAH

NOISE



The point of tension – taking the lid off

The Real
World



The non-Christian
World View

Their own
presuppositions



Logical
Conclusions

Exercise - Module 3

- Discuss in small groups
- How might you 'take the lid off' in a discussion about abortion, sexuality, human rights or climate change?



A 3D blue puzzle piece is the central focus, featuring the text 'Module 4' and 'God's sovereignty in Evangelism'. It is surrounded by other puzzle pieces, some of which are white with faint outlines, suggesting a larger assembly. The lighting creates soft shadows, giving the pieces a three-dimensional appearance.

Module 4
God's sovereignty in
Evangelism

Do you ever say this to yourself?

- 'If God is in control there is no point in me doing anything.'
- 'I feel so guilty that I don't share my faith with everyone I meet.'
- 'I must find a better technique to make people come to Christ.'
- 'I give up! None of those I talk to has followed Christ.'

God's sovereignty in evangelism

It is God who is in control
of history and the universe itself

The proclamation of the Gospel
requires human instruments...

but it is God's work.

Exercise - Module 4

- Look up the following verses in groups
- How do they help us with knowing what God's role and ours is?



God is the universe's...

Creator

Gen 1:1-2; Ps 8:3; 2 Pet 3:5

Owner

Ps 24:1; Job 41:11

Sustainer

Heb 1:3; Ps 147:8-9, 15-18

Director

Dan 2:21, 4:17; Is 40:15,22-24

Redeemer

Rom 8:20-22; 2 Cor 4:16-5:5

It is God himself who...

Gives us the Word to proclaim

Romans 1:1,16

Open doors of opportunity to proclaim it

Acts 14:27; Colossians 4:3

Gives us the courage to speak

2 Timothy 4:17; Acts 4:29; Ephesians 6:19-20

Enables hearers to understand the message

Acts 16:14

It is God himself who...

Convicts people of sin

John 16:8

Enables sinners to repent

Acts 5:31, 11:18; Ephesians 2:8

Brings about rebirth

Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9; John 3:3-8

In conclusion

God is in control of history and our lives

Evangelism is His work

We are His instruments in this work

Therefore, we must pray and act

Questions on Module 3 & 4

- 'Pre-evangelism'
- 'God's sovereignty in evangelism'



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Module 5
What is the Gospel?

Exercise - Module 5

- Share the Gospel with a partner for two minutes
- Feed back what you heard
- Write it down in a list



Gospel sermons in Acts

Acts 2:14-40

- Peter at Pentecost

Acts 3:12-26

- Peter to Jewish citizens

Acts 4:8-12

- Peter to the Jewish ruling council

Acts 5:29-32

- Peter to the Temple Captain and Priests

Acts 10:34-43

- Peter to Cornelius' family and friends

Acts 13:16-41

- Paul to Jews and God-fearers at Antioch

Acts 14:15-17

- Paul to the Farmers at Lystra

Acts 17:22-31

- Paul to the Greeks at Athens

Acts 26:2-23

- Paul to King Agrippa at Caesarea

Acts 5:29-32

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! 30 The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Acts 5:29-32

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Summary of Acts 5:29-32

1. God has revealed himself in history through
 - a) the fathers ie the prophets and patriarchs
 - b) Jesus

2. Jesus was
 - a) killed (crucified)
 - b) raised to life (resurrected)

3. God has thereby made Jesus
 - a) Prince (Lord and Judge)
 - b) Saviour

Summary of Acts 5:29-32

4. God is asking us to
 - a) Repent (turn from our old way of living)
 - b) Obey (put our trusting belief (faith) in Jesus)

5. He will then give us
 - a) Forgiveness (by the blood of Christ)
 - b) the Holy Spirit (helping us to live new lives)

Gospel outline

God

Man

God

What if I don't?

What if I do?

'God Man God'

- God - the ruler of the universe
 - Man – a rebel creature
- God – a rescue plan by entering our world
 - What if I don't – rejection by God
 - What if I do? – reconciliation with God

Exercise - Module 5

- Try sharing the Gospel with a partner again for two minutes using the outline
- Did that feel any better?



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Module 6

The Place of Dialogue

Exercise - Module 6

- What is the problem in communication in this cartoon?
- Do we ever do this?



What we say to dogs

Okay, Ginger! I've had it!
You stay out of the garbage!
Understand, Ginger? Stay out
of the garbage, or else!



What they hear

blah blah GINGER blah
blah blah blah blah
blah blah GINGER blah
blah blah blah blah...



Apostolic evangelism

In a language they understand
(Acts 17:18)

Apostolic evangelism

In a language they understand
(Acts 17:18)

In an environment they feel comfortable
(Acts 16:13, 17:17, 19:9)

Apostolic evangelism

In a language they understand
(Acts 17:18)

In an environment they feel comfortable
(Acts 16:13, 17:17, 19:9)

With the opportunity for discussion
(Acts 17:2,4, 17:17, 18:4, 28, 19:9)

Dialogue enables us to...

Check their understanding

Understand their objections

Answer their questions

Questions on Module 5 & 6

- 'What is the Gospel?'
- 'The place of dialogue'



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Module 7

The Nature of Dialogue

Exercise - Module 7

- Does evangelism frighten you?
- What is it specifically that makes you afraid?



The common fears

Losing friends

Appearing judgmental

Not knowing how to answer their questions

Exercise - Module 7

- So what are these questions that you are afraid of being asked?



Seven deadly questions

1. Is Christ the only way to God?
2. Isn't the Bible full of errors?
3. Isn't Christian experience only psychological?
4. How can miracles be possible?
5. What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
6. Why do the innocent suffer?
7. Won't a good moral life get me to heaven?

Why we can't believe

1. There's no proof
2. Christianity is irrelevant
3. I've never really thought about it
4. The biggest obstacle is the church
5. There's so much suffering in the world
6. Christianity can't be the only way to God

Five 21st century British objections

1. God is a moral monster (slavery, the Amorites etc)
2. Sex and marriage
3. LGBT and transgender
4. Ethics – especially abortion, euthanasia
5. The intolerance of Christianity

(The reality is the three exchanges of Romans 1:22, 25, 26)

Seven Deadly Islamic Questions

1. But hasn't your Bible been corrupted?
2. What about the predictions of Mohammed in the Bible?
3. How can you worship three gods?
4. Why is there any need for the cross? Surely God can just forgive us?
5. How could God allow his Son to die?
6. The Qur'an is clearly God's word because of its scientific insights
7. How can Christianity be true when the West is so corrupt?

Exercise - Module 7

- Role play the seven deadly questions
- In pairs or groups
- With a leader playing the devil's advocate



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Module 8
Reasons for Christian Faith

Exercise - Module 8

- If someone asked you why you believe Christianity is true what possible lines of argument could you use?



Why do you believe?

Beauty and design in the natural order

Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:19-20

Inner Awareness

Acts 17:27; Romans 2:15

God's revelation in Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:13-15

What are you putting on the agenda?

Creation

- Genesis vs Evolution
- The problems of suffering and evil

Experience

- The world's religions
- Isn't it all psychological?
- Relativism and the nature of truth and morals

Jesus Christ

- The reliability of the Gospels

Questions on Modules 7 and 8

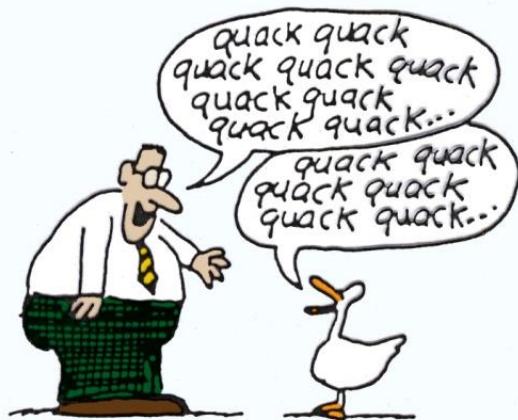
- 'The Nature of Dialogue'
- 'Reasons for Christian Faith'



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Module 9
Process of Persuasion

Larson



The Apostolic Model

Identify - Find something to agree on
(Acts 13:13-51; 14:14-18; 17:22-31)

Confront - Challenge wrong beliefs
(Acts 17:17, 13:46, 18:28, 19:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:11, 10:5)

Invite – Present Christian truth
(Romans 1:16, 15:20; 1 Corinthians 1:23)

Islam

Identify - Agree about God, creation, prophets, Jesus, judgement, common history, corruption of the West

Confront - Ask about sin, means of salvation, nature of God, reliability and consistency of Islam

Invite - Move onto revelation, trinity, Christology

Judaism

Identify - Agree about God, creation, prophets and OT

Confront - Ask about life after death, messianic prophecy, ethics, other nations

Invite - move onto explaining biblical prophecy, Jesus, cross

Atheism

Identify - Agree about science, truth, evidence, history

Confront - Ask about self-awareness, conscience, free will, morality, creativity, sense of destiny

Invite - Move onto Christ, resurrection, revelation, life after death

The 'Submarine' model

Questions not propositions

Avoid Christian jargon

Begin with points of agreement (look for 'signs of truth')

Move onto points of disagreement

Display inconsistencies

Ask permission to share

Package the gospel appropriately

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Module 10
Successful Evangelism

Successful evangelism

1. Non-Christians must be present
2. The Gospel must be presented
3. The Atmosphere must be conducive

Apostolic evangelism

In a language they understand

In an environment they feel comfortable

With the opportunity for discussion

Contexts for successful evangelism

- One to one
- Dialogue suppers
- Lunch bar evangelism
- Grill a Christian panel
- Evangelistic Surveys (eg computer worldview)
- Street evangelism (esp Hyde Park)
- Evangelistic Bible Studies
- Debates
- Internet chat rooms and social media

Harvesters' questions

Are you interested in spiritual things?

Do you have a faith that helps you?

Have you ever thought of becoming a Christian?

Are you there yet or are you still on the way?

How far along the way are you?

What do you think is stopping you going the next step of the way?

The ABC approach

- Admit - that you need God's forgiveness and power to change
- Believe - that Christ died for you and rose from the dead
- Choose - to live now in obedience to Christ

Questions on Modules 9 and 10

- 'Process of Persuasion'
- 'Successful evangelism'



Contacts and Further Information

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