

Worshipping God with All Our Minds

The Lord Jesus repeats the call from Deuteronomy to love God with every aspect of our beings, including our minds. If we neglect the mind, the result is unreflective activism and unthinking experientialism. But the mind isn't the sum total of a person, either, and so apologetics can't just mean winning arguments. To be effective apologists who lovingly persuade others of the truth, we need to love God and others with both our minds *and* every other aspect of our being. In this session, we will explore what that means as we work towards a biblical understanding of the role of reason in faith and persuasion in evangelism.

John Kirkpatrick has been the pastor in Portrush Presbyterian Church for the last 21 years. This church is situated on the North Coast of Ireland very close to the famous world heritage site, 'Giants Causeway.' John is the director of the apologetics course Reality316 aimed at equipping a wide range of people to be relevant apologists. For a number of years, he served as Chairman of New Horizon, a well-known Christian conference in Ireland and has been a chaplain to the Motorcycle Racing community, quite unique to the Irish culture. John is married to Joan and they have four children, three of whom are now married.

Paul Coulter lives in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, with his Chinese Malaysian wife, Gar-Ling, and their two teenage children. He is Head of Ministry Operations with Living Leadership (www.livingleadership.org), an organisation that helps leaders and their families across the UK and Ireland to live joyfully in Christ and serve Him faithfully through training, mentoring and pastoral support. He is also Executive Director of the Centre for Christianity in Society (www.christianityinsociety.org), which seeks to connect Christ with contemporary culture through evangelistic speaking and training in ethical issues and apologetics. Paul is the author of two books - *Clarion Call: Finding Joy in Christ with John the Baptist* and *Serving Two Masters? Probing the Tensions Between Science and Faith in the Art of Healthcare* - several book chapters and multiple articles, including several on BeThinking.org. He speaks and writes regularly on leadership, pastoral care, the Christian mind and contemporary culture. In his spare time, he loves to walk in hills and forests, cycle on flat roads, and read about history.

I. The call to love God with the mind (Matthew 22:37)

II. Introducing worldviews

A. What is a worldview?

B. Common worldviews in the West

III. A consistent Christian (gospel) worldview (John 3:16)

A. God rules (“God so loved ...”) – the Father in creation

B. We rebelled (“... the world ...”) – sin

C. God rescues (“... that he gave his only Son ...”) – the Son in redemption

D. We respond (“... that whoever believes in him should not perish ...”) – faith

E. God restores (“... but have eternal life”) – the Spirit in new creation

IV. Persuasive evangelism

A. Reason *and* faith

B. Approaches to apologetics

1. Classical – the apologist as philosopher

2. Evidentialist – the apologist as detective

3. Fideist – the apologist as witness to faith

4. Presuppositionalist – the apologist as witness to truth

5. Cumulative case – the apologist as lawyer

C. Choosing the best approach

1. By theological conviction

2. By stage in the journey