

***Apologetics with Christians & Theists***  
**Ministry Formation --**  
**Diocese of Rockford**  
Instr: Dcn. Jason Stewart

**I. What is Truth?**

**A. Objective/Subjective**

**B. Moral/Religious Relativism**

**C. Asking Purposeful Questions**

- ★ What do you believe?
- ★ How did you come to believe it?
- ★ What do you mean by X?
- ★ What would you say to someone who said, “X”?

**II. Jesus & the Gospels**

**A. “Who do *you* say that *I* am?”**

- Jesus of Nazareth: Liar, Lunatic, Lord, or Legend
- Invest in this question with other theists

**B. Who Did Jesus Think He Was?**

- Forgave the sins of others
- Claimed to be the greatest human good
- Greater than the Temple & Torah

**C. Jesus Started a Church**

- “I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18)
- “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matt. 18:18)
- “He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me” (Lk. 10:16)
- “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (Jn. 20:23)

#### **D. *Christus totus* (Jesus Plus the Church = the “Total or Whole Christ”)**

- “And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be Head over everything for the Church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way” (Eph. 1:22-23)
- “*About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they’re just one thing, and we shouldn’t complicate the matter.*” (Acts of the Trial of Joan of Arc)

### **III. Jesus & the Protestant Reformation**

#### **A. The Five Solas of the Reformation**

- Sola scriptura ("by Scripture alone")
- Sola fide ("by faith alone")
- Sola gratia ("by grace alone")
- Solus Christus or Solo Christo ("Christ alone" or "through Christ alone")
- Soli Deo gloria ("glory to God alone")

### **IV. Jesus & the Fundamentalists**

#### **A. Biblical Literalism**

- ❖ Creation (Faith vs. Science)
- ❖ Adam & Eve
- ❖ Noah’s Flood
- ❖ Prophecy & the End Times

### **V. Jesus & Church Merch**

#### **A. Non-denominationalism**

- Christianity as a brand
- Cultural relevance
- Culturally driven social justice