

FINDING TRUTH

Principle # 5 “Propose a Biblical Alternative”

“The five principles derived from Romans 1 build a powerful case to show that idol-based worldviews fail to give adequate answers to the basic questions all people must answer. At the same time, they demonstrate that Christianity provides better answers – that fit the real world .” p.51

“Why do people hold ideas that are not supported by their own worldview? Scripture says all people are made in God’s image, live in God’s world, and experience God’s common grace. As a result, in practice they **experience** the living truths of general revelation, even if they selectively **suppress** that knowledge.” p.224

Moral Relativists

What do they claim?

There is no universal, timeless moral law.
They are tolerant and non-judgmental.

What do they actually do?

Insist that racism or abuse is wrong.
Protest if they are cheated or violated in any way.
Pride themselves in being morally superior.

Why don’t their actions match they claims?

“Because humans are made in the image of God, they are hardwired with an intrinsic moral sense. Romans 2:15 says those who do not have God’s law in written form have the moral law ‘written on their hearts’.”

They function as if Christianity is true.

Atheists

What do they claim?

Evolution: The strong prevail, the weak left behind.

What do they actually believe?

In equality and universal human rights.

Why don’t their beliefs match their claim?

“A few intrepid atheists admit outright that they have to borrow the ideal of human rights from Christianity. . . .the concept came from “religious claims that human beings are made in the image of God.” p.225

They borrow ideals like equality and rights from a Biblical worldview but cut them off from the source in the Creator.

Skeptics

What do they claim?

No one can be sure of anything.

What do they actually do?

“No one doubts that the material world is real. (We all look both ways before crossing the street.) No one doubts inner experiences like pleasure or pain. (If I say I have a headache, you don’t ask, ‘How do you know?’ We do not doubt the reality of cause and effect. (We trust that fire will heat and ice will cool.) No one doubts his or her personal existence (we use the word ‘I’)

Why don’t their actions match they claim?

They are forced by the sheer circumstances of life to act as if the Biblical account of creation is true.

Scientific Materialists

What is their claim?

Humans are nothing by animals.

What do they actually do?

“They want to grant humanity a higher status and dignity; they want to believe that humans have ‘consciousness, selfhood, and free will’. p.229

Why don’t their beliefs match their claim?

Do not want to live within the confines of their own materialist box.

They smuggle in ladders from a Christian worldview to climb out of the box.

Problems of a Proud Atheist – Raymond Tallis

“Isn’t there a problem in explaining how the blind forces of physics brought about (cognitively) sighted humans who are able to see, and identify, and comment on, the ‘blind’ forces of physics? **How did the forces of physics create beings who transcend those forces?**

Isn’t there a problem in explaining how natural forces created humans who are able to turn around and use those forces ‘to engage with nature as if from the outside’? **Why are humans able to rise above the forces that supposedly created them? Can a puppet gain control over the puppeteer?**

Isn’t there a problem in explaining how the universe ‘brought us into being by mindless processes that are entirely without purpose?’ **How did a mindless process create beings with minds? How did a purposeless process create beings with purposes?**

Isn’t there a problem in explaining how an undesigned process could produce ‘one species that is indeed a designer? **How did humans get to be so different? How is it possible for humans to be ‘so different’ from the forces that supposedly produced them? How can water rise above its source?** pp.232,233

