

Women Teaching Women - Topics in Order of Presentation

Why Apologetics? - *Mary Jo Sharp*

Christianity is portrayed as intellectually bankrupt in the most influential mode of communication in our culture: our media. Due to the large platform that our modern media provides, we must be a generation who is willing to answer the claims which negatively target the Christian faith and create doubt about God. Apologetics can answer doubt, build confidence, and change lives.

The Christian Mind as it Pertains to Women - *Nel Brace*

The study of theology proper, philosophical theology, and apologetics has traditionally been dominated by male thinkers. The relatively small number of noteworthy female scholars in these disciplines attest to this. Why is this the case? Is the content of these disciplines of little or no value for women? What is a Christian woman's responsibility as pertaining to her mind? And is there spiritual and practical value in cultivating well developed Christian thinking? This presentation will explore these and other related questions and will evaluate the importance of the life of the mind as pertaining to the Christian woman.

Does Life Have Meaning Apart from God? - *Mary Jo Sharp*

Do you know someone who has struggled with or is struggling with the question of God's existence and our purpose in this world? In this session, we discuss the atheist view of the meaning and purpose of human life, as well as take a look at how the author of Ecclesiastes contemplated this difficult question. We will also see how the death and resurrection of Jesus is necessary for redemption, forgiveness, and meaning in this life.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

What Makes the Bible Reliable? - *Kathryn V. Camp*

Withstanding the test of time: The Bible we hold today has withstood centuries of criticisms, yet the general public is convinced of otherwise. Liberal scholarship repeatedly undermines the validity and authoritative value of the Scriptures, which has resulted in a complacent and ineffective type of Christianity that remains undifferentiated among other religions of the world. New Testament reliability is essential when sharing the Gospel with a skeptical and confused world. The Historical Reliability of the Bible explores the facts about the documents and the people involved

in recording the events found in the Bible. We will look at higher and lower criticisms and how we can defend the voracity of the written Word of God with claims that far exceed any other literary work in history.

Women in Christianity and Islam - *Cynthia Suffern*

Women who are believers either in Islam or in Christianity have commonalities as worshippers of God, and a basis for mutual understanding. They practice their faith in sincerity, follow the teachings of Mohammad or Christ, and live out their faith in the context of their family and culture. But there are significant differences between the core doctrines of Christianity and Islam. This talk will address some of these differences, and specifically how those doctrines reflect the ways women worship and live in modern life. We will examine how these differences between Islamic and Christian views of the nature of God how that matters for women.

This talk will specifically address how the natures of Yahweh and Allah affect the view of women in each faith. Hopefully we can then engage in meaningful dialogue as women of faith and have a greater understanding of how the nature of each faith intersects women's concerns.

The Dark Side Of The Force: A Look At The Occult - *Marcia Montenegro*

In this workshop led by a former astrologer and author of a book on the occult, we will look at the nature of the occult and its many guises, examine what the Bible says about it, and discuss how to respond to those involved in occult activities, including Wicca.

Feminism and Christianity - *Dianna Newman*

In 2015 it is very safe to say that Feminism, in the U.S., has hit all parts of the culture—*including* the church. Since the late nineteenth century efforts of individuals like Margaret Mead, Margaret Sanger and others, feminist thought and ideas have saturated our ideas about family, gender, men, and even God. In this presentation, we will look at Feminism as it has unfolded in the last 150 years and discuss how the modern manifestations of Feminism have altered some of the most important aspects of the culture.

Understanding the Godhead: A Defense of the Trinity - *Charmain Barnes*

Christians are often pressured to succumb to the cultural norm of religious inclusivity. A general consensus in society is that all religions lead to the same God. Voices of dissent are viewed as unkind, intolerant and bigoted. How do we find a pathway to communicate the uniqueness of Jesus Christ? In the doctrine of the Trinity we find vital distinctives of the Christian faith, which form the basis for its claim of exclusivity. This

workshop will explore the difference between essence and function within the Godhead, refute some common objections to the Trinity, and discuss how an understanding of this doctrine can impact our evangelistic outreach.

Does Christianity Oppress Women? - *Dianna Newman and Nora Hale*

Whether implied overtly or suggested subtly in modern day culture, the unchallenged assumption of the day is that Christianity oppresses women. It is suggested by many that Christianity suppresses true Womanhood while Feminism alone truly captures Womanhood. In fact, many women assume that Feminism, as a whole, is the great emancipator of women.

Presented as an interactive dialog between Nora Hale and Dianna Newman, this session discusses whether Christianity oppresses women. Drawing from contributions made by philosophy, anthropology, sociology, biology, and human history, this session makes the case that Christianity, not Feminism, best captures what it means to be a woman; and quite ironically, various species of Feminism are very oppressive to women since they ignore what it means to *be* a woman.

This session will equip women in their defense of classic Christianity by helping them think deeply about what the culture often presents as fact, but in many cases does not accurately represent reality.

How Can Jesus be the Only Way? - *Julie Miller*

Religious pluralism is the idea that there are multiple paths to God and all religions are equally valid. In other words, there is no one true religion.

If religious pluralism is true:

1. Christians are bigoted, intolerant, and immoral for holding exclusive truth claims, and
2. God is evil for mandating his cruel salvation plan of killing Jesus for no good reason.

We will investigate and answer the following:

1. Is religious pluralism true?
2. How should we think about religious diversity?
3. How does Christianity answer the serious objections posed by pluralists against exclusive Christian claims?

What About Those Who Haven't Heard The Gospel – And Even Those Who Have? - *Jill Graham*

This talk will explore some questions that haunt many people: has God forgotten about all those people who haven't heard the gospel, and will they end up in hell? What about people in our own country (especially loved ones) who have heard a distorted or incomplete gospel or who have been turned off to the gospel by the hypocrisy of so-called Christians?

These are questions that many wrestle with on a very personal level. If not dealt with properly, these questions can cause distance in their walk with God or turn them off to God completely. We will explore the various views that pertain to this topic including universalism, inclusivism and exclusivism, and will seek to find which view aligns most faithfully with Scripture and the heart of God. We will seek answers that are both truthful and sensitive to the delicate nature of this topic with an emphasis on trust in the goodness of God.

Gender Matters - *Nora Hale*

In this presentation, Nora will endeavor to answer some of the most crucial questions on sexuality such as: What does it mean to be human, masculine and feminine? What is one flesh marriage and is it an out dated concept for the 21st Century?

Logic: The Lost Art of Thinking - *Nel Brace*

Can you deal with the modern day onslaught of information in an orderly and systematic manner or do you find yourself overwhelmed by all you read, see, and hear? Do you merely drift in the direction of popular opinion or are you able to recognize arguments and evaluate them critically. This talk will focus on the importance of logic (the forgotten discipline of our time) and will aim to equip listeners with the ability to recognize and identify informal fallacies.

Being Spiritual: The Ever-Changing Face Of The New Age - *Marcia Montenegro*

In this workshop led by a former New Ager, we will examine the core of New Age beliefs, how the New Age masks itself and why it takes on new guises, where we see it today, and how to respond to its claims, especially in dialoguing with a New Ager. This workshop should help participants to identify the New Age more easily and become comfortable in talking to people involved in the New Age.

Commending Christianity in a Pluralistic Culture - *Julie Miller*

What is the best way to commend Christianity in our pluralistic culture? Most skeptics see religious truth claims as merely opinion, with no way to adjudicate between religions. We will learn how to invite someone on a Religious Truth Quest and give three criteria for investigating religious truth claims.