

Engagement

A Tactical Approach

Apologetics

- ***Apologetics:*** using a reasoned statement or a verbal defense to show that Christianity is true and that all non-Christian worldviews are false.

Worldview

- **Worldview:** One's most fundamental beliefs and assumptions about the universe you inhabit.
 - A worldview is one's Story of Reality! The way that one believes Reality truly is.
 - Everyone has a worldview.
 - A worldview is like a puzzle box top; the complete picture which all the pieces must fit together to create.

Do the pieces match the box top?



**A MANUAL FOR
CREATING
ATHEISTS**
BY **PETER BOGHOSSIAN**
FOREWORD BY **MICHAEL SHERMER**

How to Have Impossible *A Very Practical Guide* Conversations

**PETER BOGHOSSIAN
& JAMES LINDSAY**

My preferred definition is “borrowing”!





Tactics: Individual engagement



Three Skills of Ambassadors

- **Knowledge:** an accurately informed mind. Know what you believe and why you believe it.
- **Wisdom:** an artful method. In other words, being able to apply the knowledge into an effective interaction with others.
- **Character:** an attractive manner. We are representatives of Christ and therefore must imitate Him in our conduct and conversation.

Speaking to man as image bearers God said, "Come now, let us reason together!"



A modest goal!



Which is more important?



Questions vs. assertions

- He who makes a claim bears the burden of proof!



But officer, you can't legislate morality!



Benefits to asking questions

- Sincere questions are friendly and flattering.
- You'll get an education.
- Questions allow you to make progress on a point without being pushy.
- Questions buy you valuable time when you're not quite sure what to do next.

THE Two Questions

- **What do you mean by that?**
 - Clarity
- **How did you come to that conclusion?**
 - Reversing the burden of proof



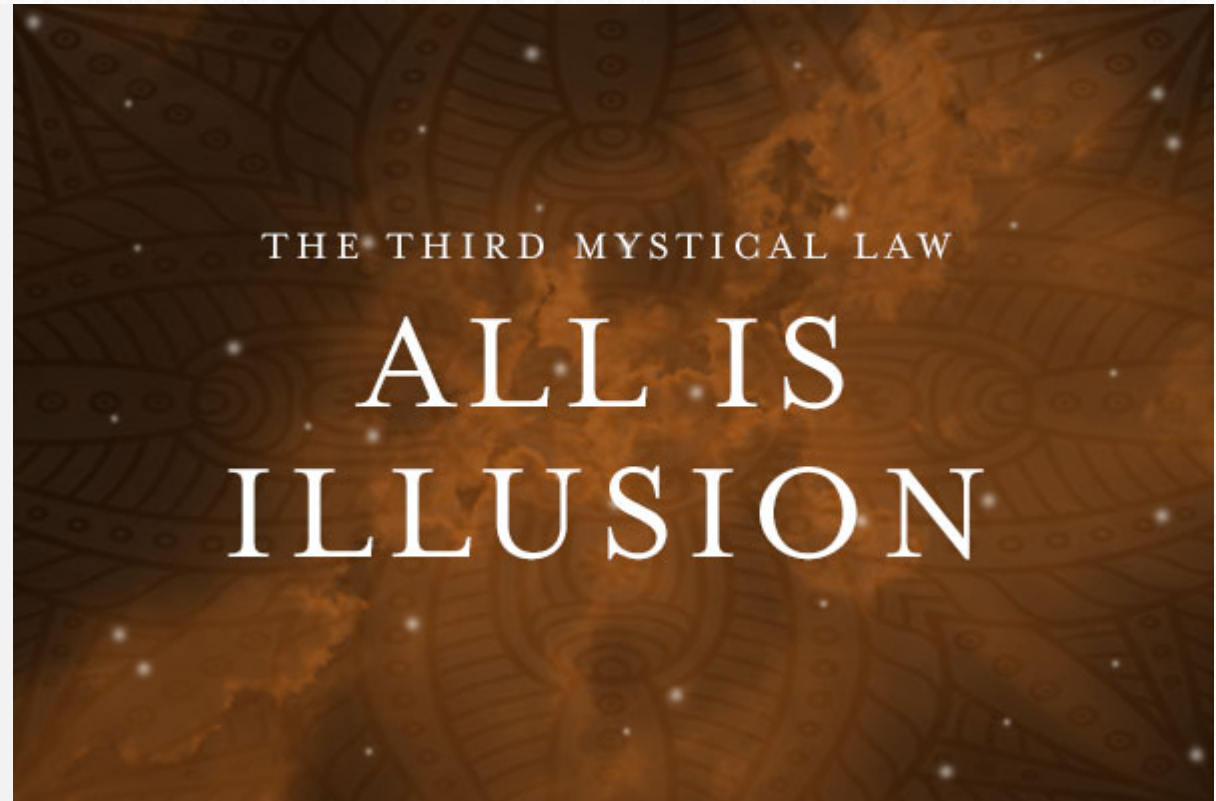
What do you mean by that?

- **A request for clarity**

- Why clarity works:

- You don't want to misunderstand the person you're talking with.
 - You don't want to misrepresent him.
 - You don't want *him* to misunderstand *himself*.

Do you really mean everything?



“GOD” Loves **EVERYBODY**,



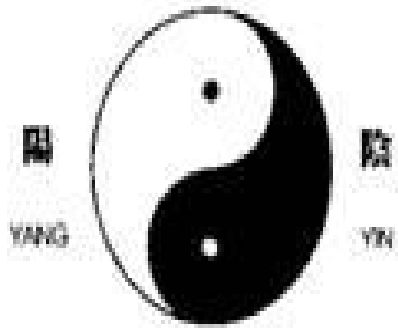
Whether YOU Like it or Not!
...or Believe in their Version of it all...



When it comes Down to it, We are **All Children** of the **Same Universe**.

♥ ...And No Matter How you want to say it, It is Time to

♥♥ **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.** ♥♥



YANG

LIFE
MOVEMENT
MALE
SUN
HOT
HARD
LIGHT
AGGRESSIVE
DOMINANCE
STRONG
BIG
LOVE
AFFIRMATIVE
MERCY

YIN

DEATH
STILLNESS
FEMALE
MOON
COLD
SOFT
DARK
PASSIVE
SUBMISSION
WEAK
SMALL
HATE
NEGATIVE
SEVERITY



**"There is no fear for
one whose mind is not
filled with desires."**

- Buddha -

**"Yes, God Hates Sin."
Proverbs 6:16-22**

How did you come to that conclusion?

Possible responses:

- They give a coherent and logical reason
- They give an incoherent and illogical reason
- They have no good reason

CONSIDERING REASONS

- Is it possible?
- Is it plausible?
- Is it probable?



Remove the third line on page 12 of all copies of the New York Times, dated June 12, 2005!



I just found these, officer!



The power, wealth and social advantage of the early Christians!



Logical Aids in Finding Flaws!



Are you certain about that?



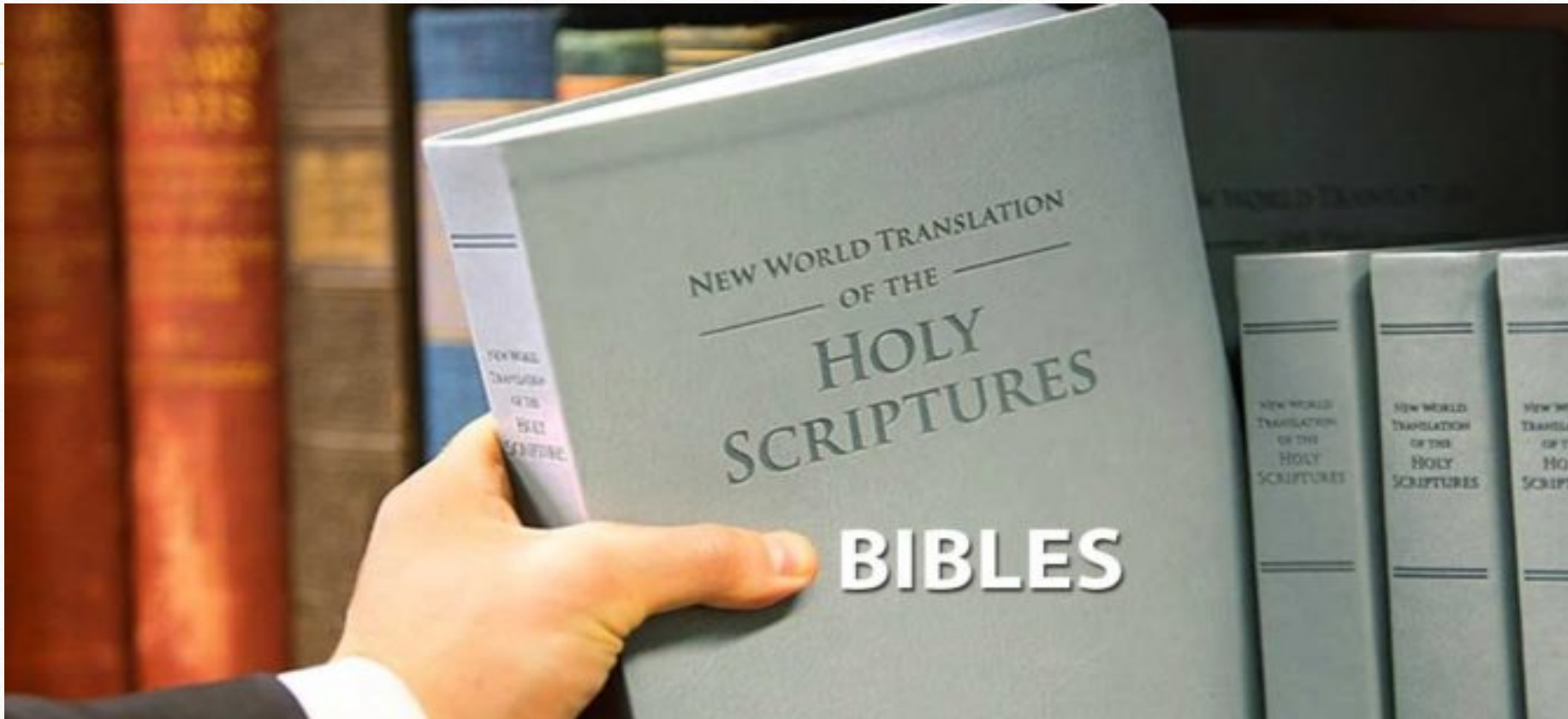
There are few things more dangerous than
inbred religious certainty.

–Bart D. Ehrman

- If exactly the same reasons in favor of a view defeat the reasons themselves, then the view is self-defeating!



...Has been so accurately translated?




You shouldn't tell other people what to do!





Argumentum Reductio ad Absurdum

The logical fallacy when a position or proposition is attacked by showing how it leads to absurd conclusions which (in reality) cannot possibly be true.



PERSONAL ATTACK FALLACY



Can we let a shrimp like this run our great country?

Name calling is not an argument!





Turnabout

1. Welcome the opportunity to clarify your view and to give reasons for holding to your view.
2. If, however, if it appears someone is only trying to manipulate or trap:
 - a. Stop the conversation and ask for clarification before going any further
 - b. Ask the person to rephrase their question in the form of a statement.
 - c. Then ask, “What do you mean by that?” & “How did you come to that conclusion?”

Review of main points thus far

- ***Apologetics:*** using a reasoned statement or a verbal defense to show that Christianity is true and that all non-Christian worldviews are false.
- ***Worldview:*** One's most fundamental beliefs and assumptions about the universe you inhabit. Everyone has a worldview.
- ***THE Two Tactical questions:***
 1. What do you mean by that?
 2. How did you come to that conclusion?