

The "Happy Accident"

$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$      $(ab)^n = a^n b^n$   
 $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$

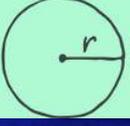







$C = 2\pi r$   
 $A = 2\pi r^2$   
 $A = \frac{1}{2}bh$      $a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$

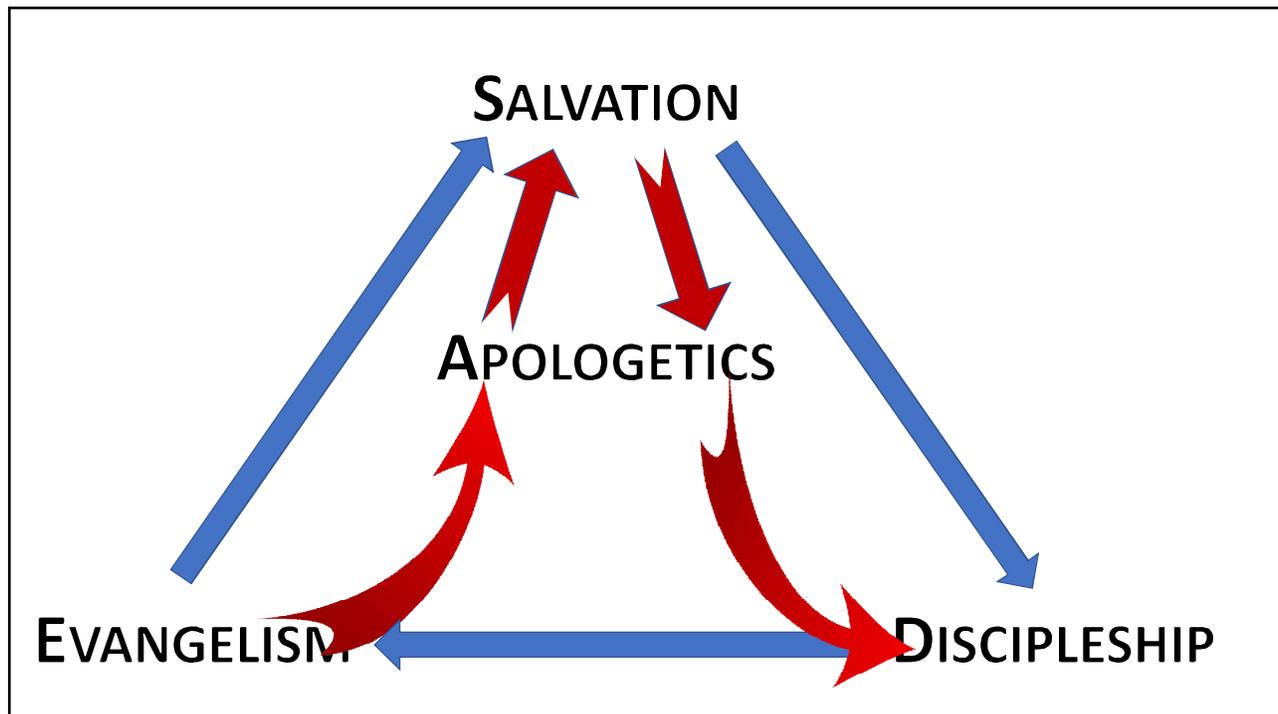
$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$      $a^2 - b^2 = (a+b)(a-b)$   
 $\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n}$      $a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$      $\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n}$



**SEB** | **SOUTHERN EVANGELICAL**  
 Seminary & Bible College

# The Concept

Part 1: What is this Thing?



## Common Words

- **Evangelism** – the act of telling people about Christ.
- **Salvation** – the moment people put their faith in Christ.
- **Discipleship** – the act of God sanctifying the believer and the church equipping the believer with information, tools, and methods to make them a follower of Christ.
  
- **Apologetics** – the defense of the faith.



## Uncommon Combinations

- **Evangelistic Apologetics** – the act of telling people about Christ while supporting the truth and defending the reasonableness of Christianity.
  
- **Apologetic Discipleship** – the act of God sanctifying the believer and the church *fully* equipping the believer with the defense of the information, tools, and methods that are biblically based and true.



## The Integration of Apologetics in Evangelism

- If you try to evangelize someone, the person
  - Trusts Jesus.
  - OR misunderstands you or your motives.
  - OR counters with is or her own religion.
  - OR references some article/book/person that refutes Christianity
  - OR doesn't think Jesus is necessary.
  - OR likes Jesus but not the Bible.
  - Etc.



## The Integration of Apologetics in Discipleship

- In discipling believers, the church
  - Makes dedicated, life-long, reproducing disciples.
  - Wrongly equips.
  - Randomly equips.
  - Shallowly equips.
  - Indeterminately equips.
  - Repetitively equips.
  - Overwhelmingly equips.



## Discipleship Done Wrong

- **Moralism** – obedience without glory to God.
- **Legalism** – obedience to earn grace.
- **Programism** – doing stuff because we do stuff.
- **Dead Orthodoxy** – faith without works.
- **Living Liberalism** – freedom from God himself.
- **Traditionalism** – doing what we do because it's what we do.
- **Defensivism** – reacting against any new idea or method.
- **Apologeticism** – loving God with the mind to the exclusion of the heart and strength.



## Our Goal should be to Fully Equip

- Clear scope and sequence.
- Reproducible, goal focused discipleship.
- Well defined agenda.
- Engaging head, heart, and hands.
- Testing, Trial, and Practice for disciples to display proficiency and improve.



## Grounded in Scripture

- Luke 6:40 = A Disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is *fully trained* will be like his teacher.
- Ephesians 4:11-12 = And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers *to equip* the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...



## Grounded in Scripture

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 = All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, *equipped for every good work*.



## The Big Idea from Scripture

- Luke 6:40 – A fully trained disciple looks like, acts like, suffers like Jesus.
- Ephesians 4:12 – Leaders are a gift to the church to fully equip the church.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – The Scriptures are the tool to make it happen through teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.



## The Big Idea in Practice

Just like **Evangelistic Apologetics** can lead to a reasoned and reasonable faith, **Apologetic Discipleship** can lead to a life and equipping that is reasoned, reasonable, and reproducible throughout the body of Christ.



# The Practice

Part 2: How do I do this?



## Step 1: Apologetic Thinking

- **Dogmatic** = Believe This
- **Theological** = This is what we have always believed OR  
This is what you should be believe based on this data.
- **Apologetic** = Here's what many believe  
These ideas are false for these reasons  
This idea is true for these reason



## Apologetic Thinking Incorporates

- Revelation
  - Logic
  - Tradition/History
  - Science
  - Hermeneutics
  - Philosophy
  - Theology
- If we use all of this to defend the faith, why aren't we also using it to disciple believers?
  - In general, churches are not using it or simply not even discipling at all!



## Step 2: Determine what “Fully Equips”

- Analogy of raising a child.
  - Children learn by watching, but apologetics has not been a major player in the church.
  - So what must a child learn? Budget? Self-Feeding? Potty-Training? How to buy a car? How to apply for a job? How to be a good spouse? Anger management?...
- What must a disciple learn and how can they learn it in a way to defend it?



## Eight Anchors of Discipleship

- **Gospel** – good news of salvation
- **Transformation** – virtues of the Christian life
- **Spiritual Disciplines** – practices that guide our walks
- **Hermeneutics** – principles to correctly interpret Scripture
- **Doctrine** – teachings of Scripture
- **Apologetics** – reasons and arguments for Christianity
- **Polemics** – reasons and arguments against other religions
- **Disciple-Making** – active engagement and equipping of others



- **Gospel** – equips for the internalization of the gospel and the evangelization of the world
- **Transformation** – equips to guide repentance (things to stop) and conversion (things to do/be).
- **Disciplines** – equips in the biblical skills designed to win the war against the flesh.
- **Hermeneutics** – equips to handle Scripture.
- **Doctrine** – equips in essential doctrines.
- **Apologetics** – equips to defend the essential doctrines.
- **Polemics** – equips to engage other faiths.
- **Discipleship** – equips to disciples to become disciple-makers

## The Need to Fully Equip In Each Area

- Only Gospel → Immature believers; living by License
- Only Transformation → Legalists; Moralists
- Only Disciplines → Buddhists; Mystics
- Only Hermeneutics → Detached Academics
- Only Theology → Dead Orthodoxy; No Orthopraxy
- Only Apologetics → Professors; No Pastors
- Only Polemics → Rebukes and Correction without Love
- Only Discipleship → Scattered Behaviors and Beliefs

## The Need to Integrate Apologetics

- **Gospel** vs. False Gospels
- **Transformation** vs. Transition
- **Disciplines** vs. Mysticism
- **Hermeneutics** vs. Eisegesis
- **Theology** vs. Heresy
- **Apologetics** vs. Apology
- **Polemics** vs. Political Correctness
- **Discipleship** vs. Reduction

### Step 3: Equipping in Each Area

- Explain what each anchor is in detail and through Scripture.
- Contrast with what it is not.
- Explain why the anchor is important to the Christian life and why it should be mastered.
- Demonstrate how it works in practice or in the life of the believer.
- Have them do it.



### Step 3: Equipping in Each Area (simplified)

- What it is.
- What it is not.
- Why it matters.
- How it Works.
- Do it.



## Developing Each Area



- What the Gospel is:
  - Material – Advent, Crucifixion, Burial, Resurrection
  - Formal – Incarnation and Sacrificial Atonement
  - Efficient – God
  - Final – Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls
- What the Gospel is not:
  - Prosperity gospel, social gospel
  - Belief *that* Jesus is God (it is putting faith *in* God).
- Why the Gospel Matters: Matthew 13
- How the Gospel Works:
  - Justification
  - Sanctification
  - Glorification



- What Transformation is
  - Repentance – the act of turning away from sins.
  - Conversion – the act of becoming like Christ.

- What Transformation is not

- Resignation          Restitution          Reformation
- Self-Righteousness          Rebellion
- Equivocation          Deception          Association

- Why Transformation Matters:

- It is the nature of the Christian Life.
- It is commanded by Jesus and the Apostles.

- How Transformation Works (for starters)

- Rational Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude.
- Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, Love



- What Disciplines Are: Deliberate and habitual spiritual exercises designed to interrupt physical life and build spiritual vitality.

- What Disciplines Are Not:

- Self-Righteousness          Self-Loathing          Legalism          Magic Rites

- Why Disciplines Matter:

- Examples throughout OT and NT
- Some directly commanded or assumed in the NT.

- How Disciplines Work:

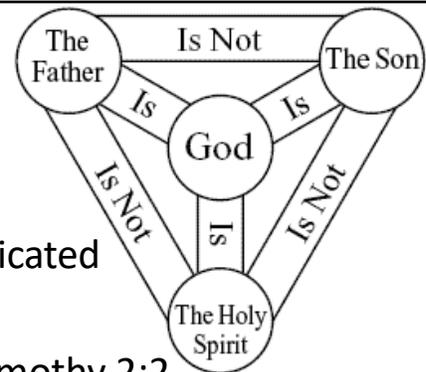
- Prayer                                  Confession
- Read/Meditation                  Worship
- Study/Memorization          Fellowship
- Fasting



- What Interpretation Is:
  - Hermeneutics: The Science and Art of Interpretation.
  - Explanation: The methods and means to understand the original message as communicated by the author.
- What Interpretation Is Not:
  - Personal Opinion            Subjective Feelings and Impressions
  - Popular Vote                 Divinely Inspired
- Why Interpretation Matters:
  - The original ideas are lost. (false)
  - The original ideas are hopelessly buried. (false)
  - The original ideas are uncoverable and knowable (true)
- How Interpretation Works:
  - Context [The Hermeneutical Tree]



- What Doctrine Is:
  - Theology = the study of God.
  - Doctrine = the teachings of the Bible.
- What Doctrine is Not:
  - “Opinions of Men”            Irrelevant            Complicated
- Why Doctrine Matters:
  - Salvation vs. Orthodoxy            Cults            2 Timothy 2:2
- How Doctrine Works
  - One God                            Two Natures (Human, Divine)
  - Three Qualities (Trinity, Virgin Birth, Sinlessness)
  - Four Realities (Depravity, Grace, Faith, Inspiration)
  - Five Positions (Atonement, Resurrection, Ascension, Intercession, Second Coming)



- What Apologetics Is:

- Defending the orthodox historic Christian faith.
- Defending why you believe in Christianity.

- What Apologetics is Not:

- Arguing people into heaven.
- Irrelevant academic exercises.

- Why Apologetics Matters:

- Faith with Reason.
- Doctrine with Proof.

- How Apologetics Works:

- Defend God's Existence.
- Defend Jesus' Divinity, Humanity, and Uniqueness.
- Defend the Human Condition and Solution to the Condition



- What Polemics Is:

- Engaging other faiths.
- Tearing down barriers to the Gospel.

- What Polemics Is Not:

- Tearing down people.
- Insulting other beliefs.

- Why Polemics Matters:

- People are often "trapped" in their own worldview or culture.

- How Polemics Works:

- Basic logical fallacies.
- Basic tactics for engaging non-Christians.
- Basic understanding of the big competing ideas against the faith.

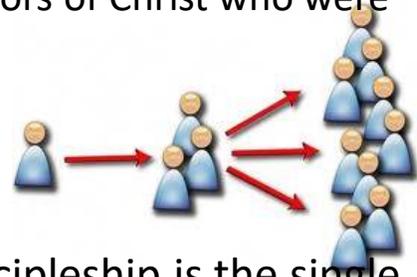


- What Discipleship Is:

- Disciples were followers, learners, and imitators of Christ who were commissioned to reproduce.

- What Discipleship Is Not:

- A designated hour of church activity.
- Optional or for the “super spiritual.”



- Why Discipleship Matters: The plan of discipleship is the single plan of world evangelism. Anything else falls short.

- How Discipleship Works:

- Baptize believers (obey basic commands)
- Teach them [actively] for a robust spiritual life.
- Make them witnesses [Salt, Light, Loving, Fruit-Bearing Believers].

## Conclusion

- “Dance with who is ready to dance.”
- Cast a vision.
- Explain what you are doing and why.
- Know your people, Find where they are, and Begin slowly with humility.

More Details to Come at



[www.faitdefense.com](http://www.faitdefense.com)