

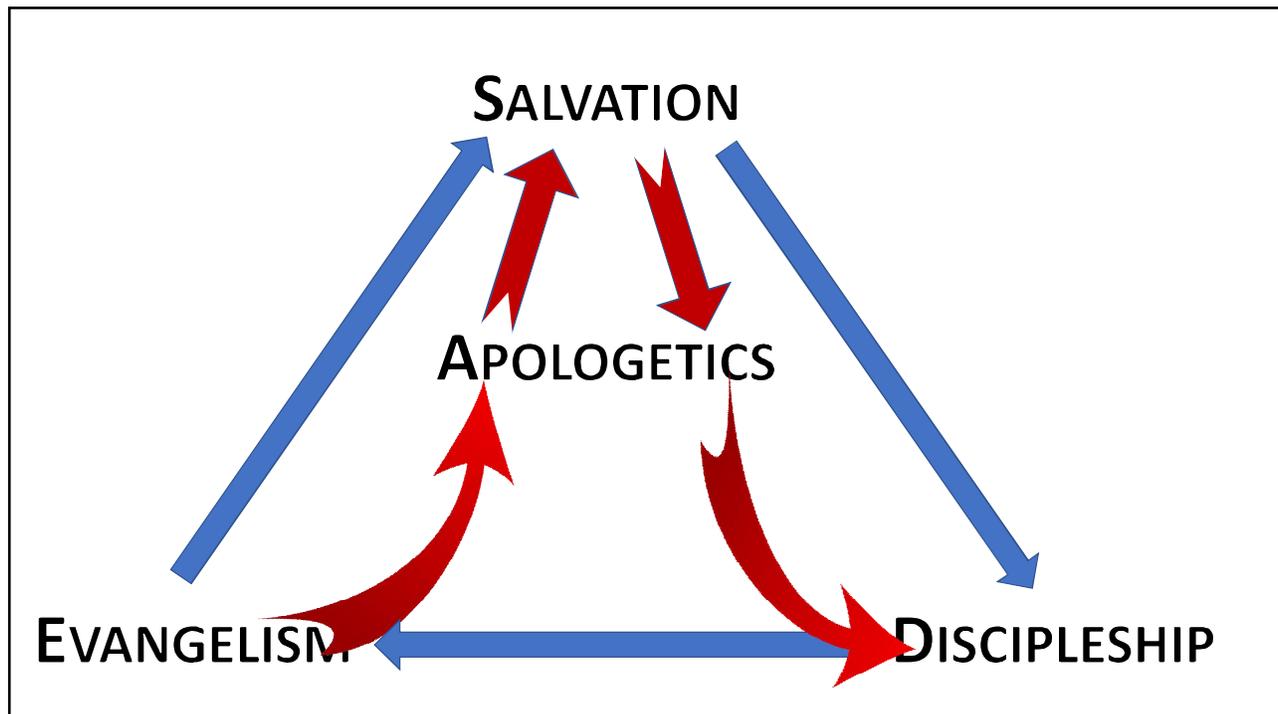
## The “Happy Accident”

- God used my mathematics training and SES to equip me in a way that few believers are. Then I realized, it was not that I was specially equipped, I was fully equipped.
- As I learned math, I took mathematical thinking and applied it to theology. It’s not that the Pythagorean theorem applies to the Bible, it’s that the process of learning math and my training helped me to think about Scripture, and it taught me ways to approach the Scripture to clarify it’s meaning and understand the truth with precision!



# 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

