Evidentialist Apologetics: Just the Facts

Testing Christianity's Truth Claims

Gordon R. Lewis
1926-2016
According to Gordon Lewis: Testing Christianity's Truth Claims

- Pure Empiricism
- Rational Empiricism
- Rationalism
- Biblical Authoritarianism
- Mysticism
- Verificational Approach
According to Norman Geisler:
*Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*

- Classical
- Evidential
- Experiential
- Historical
- Presuppositional
Bernard Ramm 1916-1992

Josh McDowell

Steven B. Cowan
According to Steven B. Cowan: Five Views on Apologetics

- Classical Method
- Evidential Method
- Cumulative Case Method
- Presuppositional Method
- Reformed Epistemological Method

Wolfhart Pannenberg 1928-2014
Clark Pinnock 1937-2010
John Warwick Montgomery
Gary Habermas
Historical Roots of Evidentialist Apologetics

Defending Against Deism: William Paley and Natural Theology
The Rise of the Legal Witness Model
Key Evidentialists

John Locke 1632-1704

Thomas Sherlock 1678-1751

Simon Greenleaf 1783-1853

Richard Whately 1786-1863
Methods of Discovering Truth
Two Kinds of Evidentialism

Epistemological Evidentialism
"It is wrong, everywhere, always, and for anyone, to believe anything upon insufficient evidence."


Two Kinds of Evidentialism

Apologetical Evidentialism
Apologetical Evidentialism

"It is wrong, everywhere, always, and for anyone, to tell someone else to believe something other than on the basis of evidence."
Priority of Fact and Induction

Probable Character of Evidentialist Arguments
The Postmodern Challenge to Evidentialism

Critical Use of Philosophy
Christianity Vindicated by Science

Miracles as Evidence for God
Strengths and Weaknesses of Evidentialism

Strengths

- Recognizes that probability is unavoidable
- Appealing methods of inquiry
- Stresses the factual evidence
Weaknesses

- Assumes the theistic worldview
- Uses hidden presuppositions
- Underestimates the human factor