

Course One Curriculum

My Tools

Learning Needed Theology - Faith Essentials

Rev. Bassem Adranly

Note: This course is neither accredited by a university nor designed academically.

This course offers the essential theological learning you need in order to minister to Muslims. There are certain fundamental essentials to the Christian faith that need to be crystal clear in the believer's understanding before s/he can get into a complicated dialogue about Christ. When sharing your faith with a Muslim it usually is not enough to merely *present* the gospel. You need to be prepared to *defend* the gospel. Defense requires a stronger and deeper understanding of the subject matter than simply knowing that "Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins," to be true. You cannot successfully sell your product to a competitor's customer unless you first understand how and why your product is better than theirs.

Learn these fundamental essentials in the context of their relevance to a Muslim mindset and perspective. Strengthen your understanding of Christology, Redemption, Trinity, the Cross and the Divinity of Christ. Discover how to address the Muslim understanding of Forgiveness, Grace, Sin, etc. Learn apologetic skills from the greatest apologist who ever lived, Jesus Christ himself.

Lecture 1 – My Identity

- Ascertain your identity and better yourself in biblical virtues so that you can fully represent Christ. **Build up your character** with spiritual and personal virtues. Learn virtues of skill and doctrine to sharpen your speech when you share the Word.
- When witnessing to a Muslim, you are a representative of all Christians and of Christianity as a whole. Learn how to **define Christians** while being inclusive of all denominations.

Lecture 2 – My Tools: Introduction to Apologetics

- **What is apologetics?** And why do we need to learn to use it?
- Apologetics is easy. Learn how to apply **apologetic skills** in two simple steps.
- Learn how to spot 10 different kinds of logical **fallacies in arguments**

Lecture 3 – My Tools: Learning from the Apologetic Ministry of Christ – p1

- Jesus used apologetics all the time, and he was very skillful at it. Study five case examples from the life of Christ and learn how **Jesus applied apologetic skills**.
- Dealing with **wrong theology and trapping questions**, these examples include the Rich Young Ruler, Paying Taxes to Caesar and many more.

Lecture 4 – My Tools: Learning from the Apologetic Ministry of Christ – p2

- Continue a study of four more case examples from the life of Christ to learn how Jesus dealt apologetically with **illogical claims and presuppositions**.
- Take a look at the famous finesse of Paul when he refers to the ‘unknown god.’ With apologetic skill one can always find an open door into a person’s heart.

Lecture 5 – The Cross and Resurrection – an Introduction

- **Muslims argue adamantly against the cross.** Yet, even in their own Islamic faith there is no substance to their denial.
- Learn how the Qur'an does **not** deny Jesus' death. Quite the opposite, the **Qur'an confirms Jesus' death** with four clear verses. Their denial is spiritual and rooted in the spirit of anti-Christ that is ruling the world.

Lecture 6 – The Cross and Resurrection – p1

- Go through a comprehensive study of the **testimonies** that exist in Scripture and outside of Scripture **testifying to the death and resurrection of Christ.**
- Learn the following 10 different sources of testimony:-
 - 1- The Testimony of Jesus Christ Himself**

Lecture 7 – The Cross and Resurrection – p2

- 2- The Testimony of Christ's Allegories**
- 3- The Testimony of Jesus' Life:**

Jesus taught that 'the Cross was a Way of Life' and that is how he lived. The cross was not an event at the end of his life that led to death, it was a lifestyle.

Lecture 8 – The Cross and Resurrection – p3

- 4- The Testimony of Jesus' Followers**
- 5- The Testimony of the Angels**
- 6- The Testimony of the Old Testament**

Lecture 9 – The Cross and Resurrection – p4

7- The Testimony of Early Christians:

Ignatius, Clement of Rome, Quadratus, Barnabas, and Aristides.

8- The Testimony of Early non-Christian Historians:

Cornelius Tacitus, Thallus, Julius Africanus, Phlegon, Epictetus, Mara Bar-Serapion, Pliny the younger, Suetonius, Lucian of Samosata, Celsus, and Josephus.

9- The Testimony of Jewish Rabbis:

Found in the Talmud and the Toledot Yeshu

10- The Testimony of Archeology:

Such as the ‘Nazareth Decree’

Lecture 10 – The Gift of Righteousness

- What is the understanding of **Forgiveness in Islam** and Judaism?
- The Bible declares that God will not accept us on the basis of forgiveness alone. **Righteousness is also required**; i.e. innocence. So, forgiveness in Islam is lacking.
- How can a **sinner be found innocent**? God solves this dilemma lawfully through the resurrection.

Lecture 11 – The Trinity

- **The Quranic claim** of what the “Christian” trinity truly is, is preposterous and thereby null. Learn about the Quranic teaching and how it does not even need to be refuted.
- How can I understand the Trinity? How can $1+1+1=1$? Learn the analogy of **the human trinity**.
- Why is the Trinity such **an issue for Muslims**? Understand the dilemma of the incarnation of the Son of God.

Lecture 12 – The 9 Roles of Jesus – p1

- Based on the doctrine of *Kenosis*, that is God the Son making himself nothing, study about Jesus Christ as:
 - **a Human**
 - **the Prophet**
 - **the Last Adam**
 - **the Messiah**
- Learn what each role means and **what miracles distinguish each one** from the other.
- Learn how these nine **different roles in Jesus' life worked together**.

Lecture 13 – The 9 Roles of Jesus – p2

- Continue studying about Jesus Christ as:
 - **the Son of Man**
 - **the Son of God**
 - **God - not using his divinity**
 - **God - using his divinity**
 - **the Glorified Jesus before and after ascension**

Lecture 14 – The Spirit of Anti-Christ

- Islam is not a new religious spirit foreign to Scripture. The New Testament actually already addressed it in the first century, **600 years before Mohammad**.
- **The enemy** tries to undo God's project of salvation in three ways. Islam fits into the third type

Lecture 15 – The Divinity of Christ – p1

- Though **Muslims** are quick to refuse the teachings of Paul and all the epistles, they **struggle to deny the gospels**, as 'the Gospel' is mentioned countless times in the Quran as the Word of God.
- Review **90 points** of biblical references, strictly taken from the Gospels, **affirming Jesus' divinity**.

- **Jesus is greater than all prophets.** Review 12 gospel references that affirm that Jesus is greater than Abraham, Moses, Jonah, Solomon, John the Baptist, Isaiah, and all the prophets.
- Begin study of the 90 gospel references affirming the divinity of Christ **through to point 20.**

Lecture 16 – The Divinity of Christ – p2

- Explore another 35 gospel references of Jesus’s divinity; **points 21-55.**

Lecture 17 – The Divinity of Christ – p3

- Continue exploring the remaining 35 points about Jesus’s divinity from the Gospels; **points 56-90.**

Lecture 18 – Common Misuses of Scripture

- Learn how to spot the ways **biblical critics commonly misuse Scripture** references.
- Learn the **first 10 of 20** misuses of Scripture and how to properly respond once you’ve identified them.

Lecture 19 – Common Misuses of Scripture – p2

- Continue study of the **remaining misuses** of Scripture.