

Resources for CEC2013
by
Bruce Hennigan
www.12thdemon.com

Websites:

<http://ratiochristi.org> -- Organization that desires to set up a student apologetic chapter at every university campus.

www.reasons.org -- Reasons to Believe, a science faith think tank. Old Earth Creationist point of view. Excellent source for solid science as evidence for God.

www.rzim.org -- Ravi Zacharias Ministries, excellent source of general apologetics and cultural apologetics.

<http://www.risenjesus.com> -- Mike Licona Ministries. Mike is a debater and apologist who specializes in college related issues. He is a good source for college presentations, debates, and loves to connect by Skype.

<http://www.discovery.org> -- Website for Intelligent Design

<http://www.answersingenesis.org> -- Main website for Young Earth Creationism

<http://biologos.org> -- Main website for Theistic Evolution.

www.str.org -- Stands to Reason is Greg Koukl's ministry. Apologetics focused on cultural issues. Greg has the best program for how to approach questions and answers with critical thinking skills. He has good pointers on how to carry on a reasonable dialogue without getting into arguments.

www.crossexamined.org -- Frank Turek's ministry. Excellent speaker and apologist dealing with general apologetics and their political application. Fantastic speaker for college events.

www.4truth.net -- Apologetic site for the North American Mission Board. This was set up by Mike Licona and is now static but has some great resources.

www.reasonablefaith.org -- Ministry of William Lane Craig easily the best Christian philosopher today. His apologetics are mainly philosophical in nature and he is hands down the best debater in Christianity today.

www.bethinking.org -- A good resource for general apologetics.

www.swordandspirit.com -- Apologetic resource aimed at a college level.

www.apologetics315.com -- Another general site with LOTS of links to other apologetic sites.

<http://www.thepoachedegg.net/the-poached-egg/> Christian worldview and apologetics network and is another general site for all things dealing with apologetics.

<http://oneminuteapologist.com> One minute interviews with just about everyone involved in Christian apologetics.

<http://carm.org> -- Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry.

www.ligonier.org -- Ministry of apologist R. C. Sproul.

<http://seanmcdowell.org> Website for Sean McDowell.

<http://alexmcfarland.com> -- Website for Alex McFarland

MEDIA

<http://www.trueu.org> -- Site for two excellent DVD series for college age, "Does God Exist?" and "Is the Bible Reliable?" both featuring Dr. Stephen Meyers.

<http://leestrobel.com> -- Website featuring Lee Strobel's books, DVDs, and small group curriculum. Has curriculum for middle school, high school, and college age.

<http://iconsofevolution.com> -- Website for the excellent book, "Icons of Evolution" by Jonathan Wells.

Other books:

"Why the Universe is the Way it Is" by Hugh Ross, PhD.

"Seven Truths that Changed the World" by Kenneth Samples

"Reasonable Faith" by William Lane Craig

Any book written by J. P. Moreland

"On Guard" by William Lane Craig

"Creator and the Cosmos" by Hugh Ross

"Without a Doubt" by Kenneth Samples

"Mere Christianity" by C. S. Lewis

"Creation and Evolution 101" by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz

"The Case for Faith" by Lee Strobel

"Light in the Shadow of Jihad: The Struggle for Truth" by Ravi Zacharias

"Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions" by Gregory Koukl

"Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air" by Francis J. Beckwith and Gregory Koukl

"True for You, But Not For Me" by Paul Copan

"When God Goes to Starbucks" by Paul Copan

"How to Know You're Not Wrong" by Paul Copan

"World of Difference" by Kenneth Samples

"Deliver Us From Evil" and "The Grand Weaver" by Ravi Zacharias

"The Problem of Pain" by C. S. Lewis

"Surprised by Joy" by C. S. Lewis

"Has Christianity Failed You?" by Ravi Zacharias

"Is God a Moral Monster" by Paul Copan

Podcasts:

Reasons to Believe:

Straight Thinking with Kenneth Samples

I Didn't Know That with all the scholars

Science News Flash -- Chris3an perspectives on latest scientific discoveries

Ravi Zacharias:

Let My People Think

Just Thinking

William Lane Craig:

Reasonable Faith

My son's email:

Dad,

I wanted to write on paper for two reasons. First, my eyes are tired of screens, and paper is a good rest; second, paper is slow. I want you to see the thoughts and revisions as they come - with care and prayer.

Up front: I love you. I'm proud to call you my father. I was raised with a truly godly example, and I'm the man I am today because of your (and mom's) love, guidance and prayers. I am so blessed that, as an adult, you are my brother and my friend as well. The Lord did right by us.

I'm sorry that so much of your public life lately has been disturbing. The world can be a dark place, and people, smug in their own tiny opinions, can wield words like a poison to drain the good Spirit in others. It still doesn't fill them and it never will, but such things only reveal themselves in the fullness of time.

[if you don't have time, scroll down to the next single hash]

I had a weird day today - truth be told, an odd few weeks. . . . I've been chasing down this unease for months, at least since Hutchmoot, but the roots go back for years, easily into my college experience. I hope it's not as pretentious as it sounds to say that I'm sketching out my worldview, because that's how I can best trace the steps that lead me to a response - not just to desensitization or to political bile, but to the world, our Lord and the call to discipleship.

Let's start with the Lord. I believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior of the world. He is the Center of the universe, the Fulcrum of creation, the Mass towards which all created things eventually bend. He is the True Great Intelligence, the Author of the Story we inhabit and inherit. He is beyond and above all created things (even time), yet He orchestrated our mechanics so that we are a part of His full work. He is the True Doctor - fire and ice, humor and majesty, grace and justice. He is the missing piece that resolves all of our mess into a beautiful whole. He is in all and through all, pulling all creation towards redemption. He is the true Word, the unbroken Orthodox Logos passed from Adam, Noah and Abraham through Jesus and His church to this present day. He is the Power, through the cross, to restore creation and heal wounds and deliver sinners from hell. His is all glory and dominion.

We, His church, are heirs to (and stewards of) that dominion. Filled with His love and emboldened by His Spirit, we are His explorers and heralds. We are His captive train, full proof of His sure and complete work of redemption, and a promissory note of that work's fulfillment and true expression. We are not just beggars with bread - we are vagabonds and explorers who have been to the lost city and have seen its hidden

riches. We are maps and signposts to a good Kingdom. We are evidence that the stories are true.

That Spirit of freedom, of equality, of deliverance, is the root of my passion, the theme of my song.

So what, then, is the world's great need?

I've seen two trends: one over the course of my adult life and one stretching further back over my 28 years here. Over the past ten years, the information infrastructure of the whole world has been transformed - practically rewritten. For the first time in history, people of similar interest or temperament can share information and connect with one another regardless of geographic, social or cultural boundaries. As information multiplies, information and communications technologies allow tribes to form around every interest imaginable. The shift is value-agnostic : it allows people to affirm and solidify one another's views, good or terrible, mainstream or fringe.

The upshot is two-fold. First, formulated worldviews are more numerous and extensively-documented and communicated than at any other time in human history. The Meta-Narrative windshield has been smashed, and we are looking at the thousands of fractal worldviews scattered around, crash-proof enough to still be distinguishable in the mess. Second, as a result, people are more aware than ever of this mess. At least subconsciously, we all recognize this diversity and acknowledge a need for co-existence to survive.

Second, since I was a child, the dominant language of social competition, of the interplay of ideas, has grown increasingly violent, increasingly personal and increasingly polarized. Being confrontational, once a rare tactic deployed when all else had failed, is now standard political and argumentation style. We have abandoned deliberation in an arms race to do the most harm in the fewest number of words. This adversarial frame dictates that all arguments are fights, that every fight has (close to) two sides, and that one side must win by destroying its opposite.

It is not logic, but rather a perversion of it: what was once about disagreement and discovery of truth is now a border skirmish between worldviews, a war whose casualties are multiplied by our newfound globalized tribalism. Our civil discourse doesn't resemble an agora so much as a lynching, where the mob that's the biggest puts to death those whose identities are different. We have returned to the era of foreign wars, of colonies and dynasties and unchecked power and ambition. In the absence of a common language, our confused interchanges know only one solid verb: to kill. This limitation frames our interpersonal struggles as a zero-sum game, a war of survival: family against family, tribe against tribe; 'her desire shall be for him but he shall rule over her.'

But Jesus' blood can mend even this.

Jesus answers violence with Himself, a man of peace whose Kingdom is of peace. We are His body and temple, His bride and His family; therefore, we are peace as well. We show that peace by our love. Revile us? We love. Strike us? Love. Hate us and wish our destruction? Love and more love. God is the center of the universe, and His heartbeat is love, in mercy and in justice. His is the judgment, so filled with His Spirit and trusting in His promises, we love.

We love actively. When we love our enemies, we act in peace to both acknowledge their worth and call out the oppression in their actions. When we love one another, we do so honestly, in full faith and trust. We also do so in openness and diversity, undoing the trendy perversion of tolerance by trusting the Holy Spirit to build the community He wants, the Body He desires, rather than the same-painted tribes of our comfort or preference.

We love comprehensively. We must show that in the face of man's deprivation or God's plenty, our community is one of love. Jesus' tribe is different: a God without a land, a Temple in our hearts. We must meet extortion with generosity, war with peace, hate with love.

We can only do this from a place of victory. If Jesus is not King, then we must fight to protect what we have and who we are because we might lose. We would "build the kingdom using the devil's tools" because they are the only tools we have. We are pagans and fools, old gods in a new land with no one to worship us but ourselves.

Or.

If God is King, if Jesus is the true Caesar, the final Lord of Lords and the Center, then what do we have to lose? Who do we have to fear? If we give Him the space, He will perfect our love, overtake our dreams and ambitions with His own, and utterly, fully cast out all of our fear. We can live generously, love freely and walk wisely because He is true and His Way is true. If the stories are true, if the treasure is real, then with love and peace we can sell all we have to buy the field and the pearl. In so doing, we model Christ - King of peace and love and wisdom and justice - who gave His all to deliver us from sin and redeem all of creation. When they see His love in us, they can choose Him or reject Him, but they cannot break away from His grasp.

This is what I struggle in my unbelief to take hold of every day. This is the rest towards which I trudge and march and dance in hopes of one day fully entering. This is the redemption, the Truth on its way to set me free. This is the good news in which I stake my all, and for which I would give all I have away. This is what I wish and pray for every struggling brother, for every doubt, and this is the truth I pray against the enemy's deception.

#

I love you. Your hurt softens my heart and reminds me that truth is truth and that actions have consequences. I pray that our lives and actions speak well of Him and hope to encourage you that our actions and words have consequences too. 'Bilbo was meant to find the Ring, which means you were meant to have it as well.'

When you encounter worldviews that disturb you, remember that you probably speak to a tribe (listeners and host) whose existence is internally validated and whose agenda for external interaction is defensiveness through destruction. Know that the Lord is speaking through you in deliberation, in gentleness and in love.

Don't forget, too, that you are His in victory. Your unease is the Spirit reminding you of Truth by identifying untruth. You are not off-base. Our culture doubts that anything affects us because we are simultaneously surrounded by competing ideas and challenged in our own, and our well-meaning sense of diversity tells us that everything should be permissible, and that we can ignore whether it's beneficial. There's nothing new under the sun is there?

Nothing new, except the here-and-coming Kingdom to which we move by the word of our testimony and the blood of the Lamb. I trust that He who keeps us from stumbling will deliver us together, made clean and re-membered into His full Kingdom. May it be as He says, and may it be soon.

Love you,

Sean

###

Hope your other interviews go well - doing good work is hard and scarce - otherwise, everyone would be doing it. May the Lord bless it and bless you.

love from your son,

Sean

PS I really did write this out by hand - I'll text you some pictures. I would've just sent you a letter, but that both takes time and requires that you can read my handwriting. I wanted to respond both directly and legibly :)