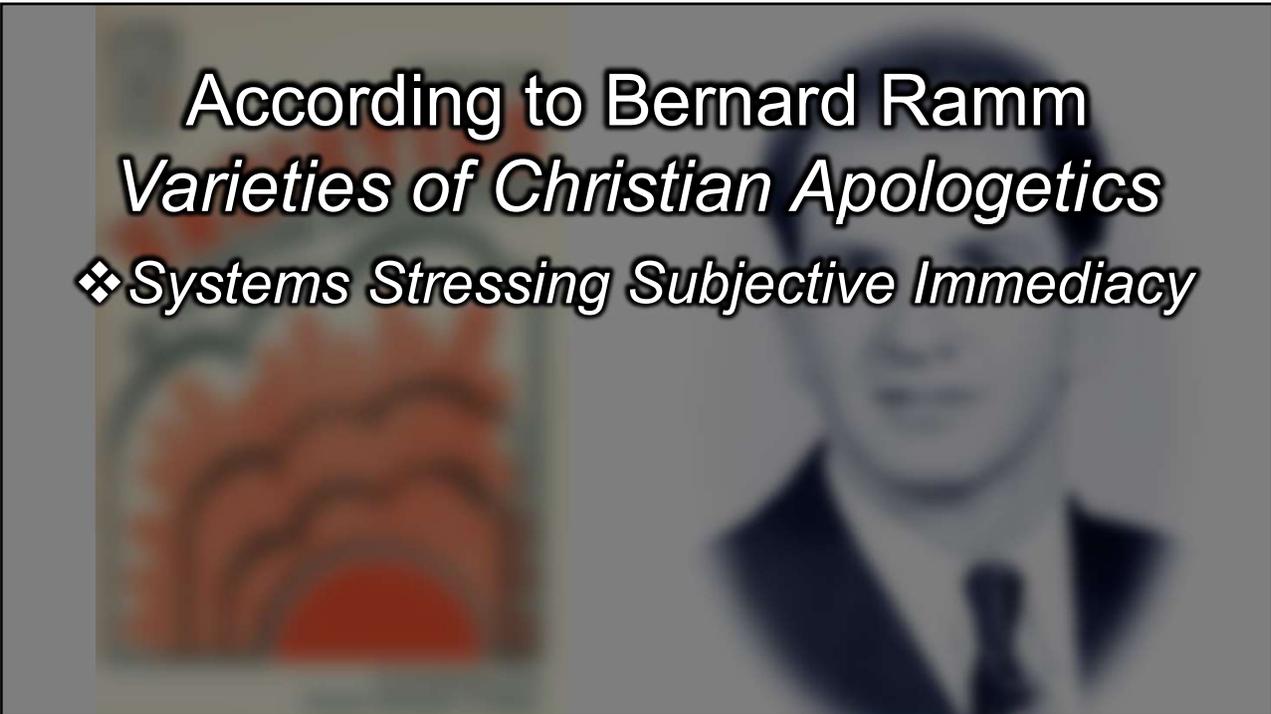


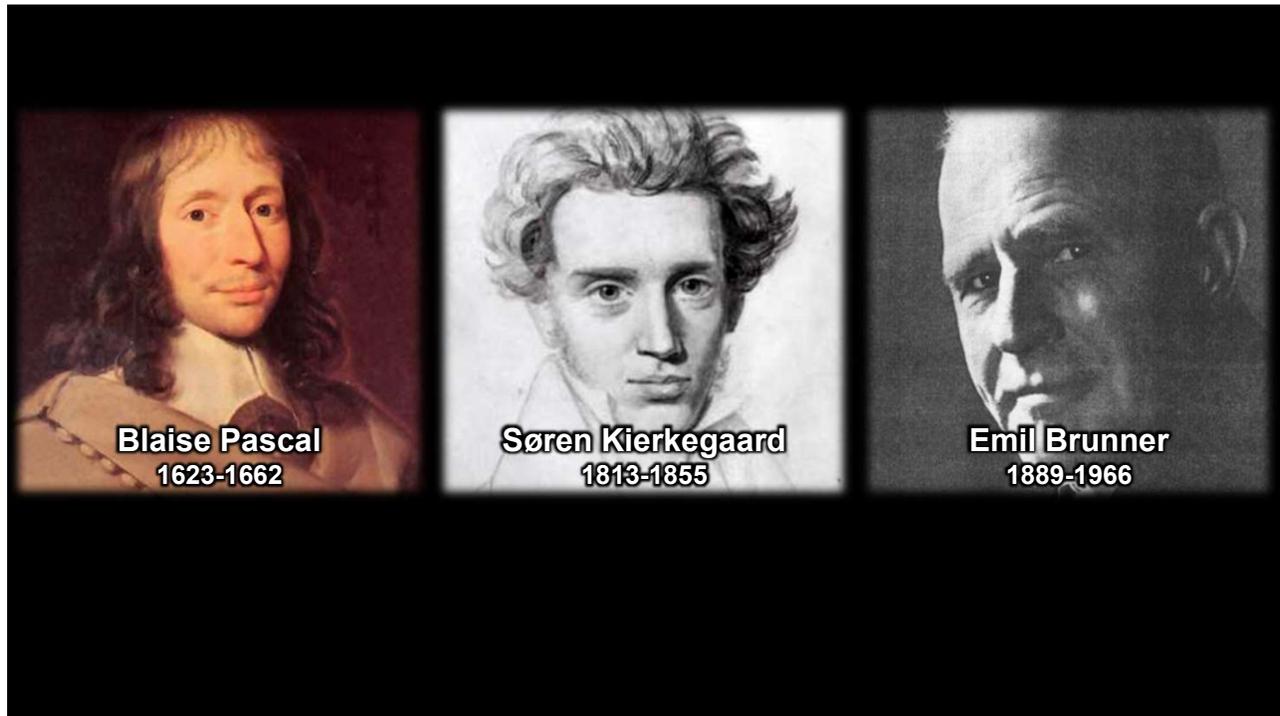
According to Bernard Ramm  
*Varieties of Christian Apologetics*

- ❖ *Systems Stressing Subjective Immediacy*
- ❖ *Systems Stressing Natural Theology*
- ❖ *Systems Stressing Revelation*



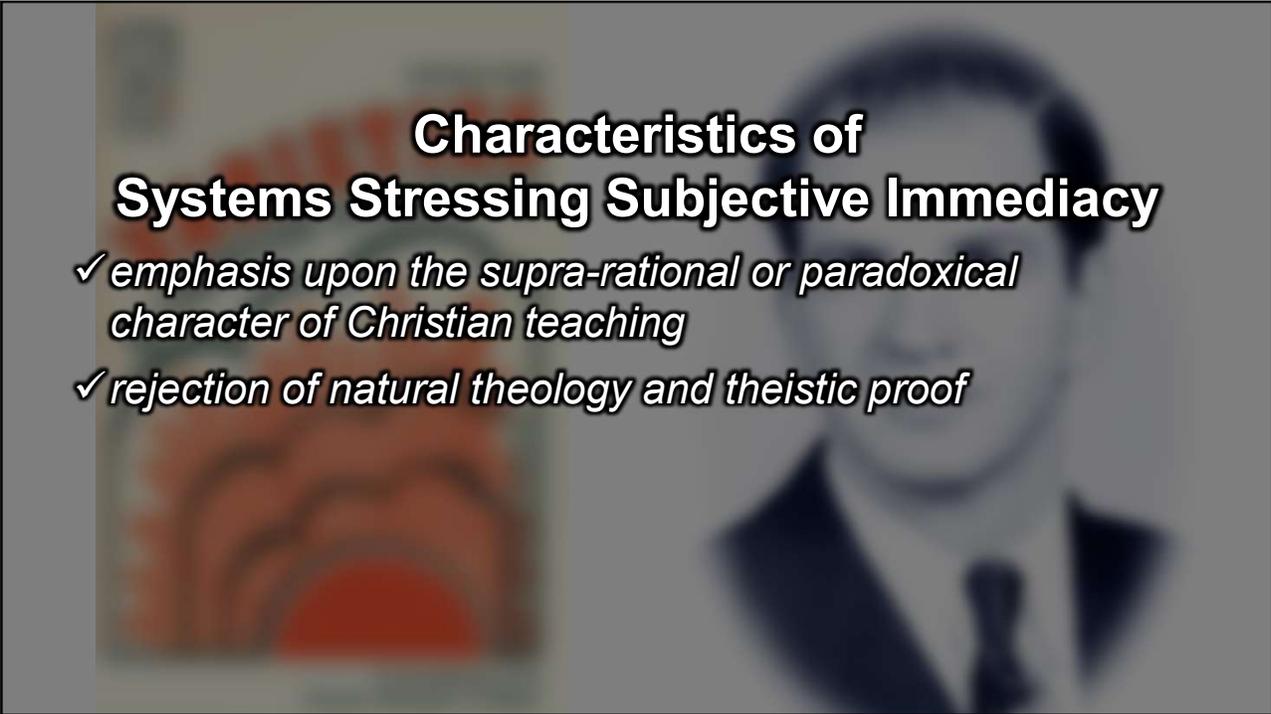
According to Bernard Ramm  
*Varieties of Christian Apologetics*

- ❖ *Systems Stressing Subjective Immediacy*



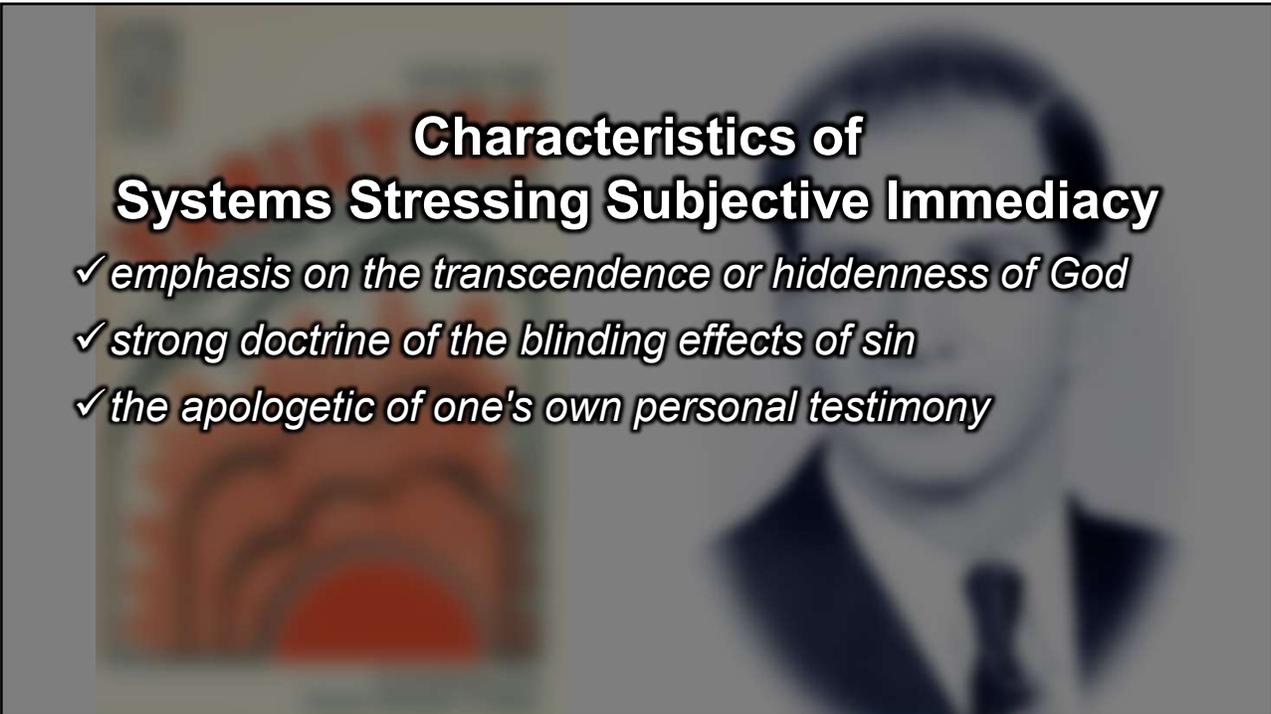
**Characteristics of  
Systems Stressing Subjective Immediacy**

- ✓ *stress upon the inward and subjective experience of the gospel*
- ✓ *a marked hostility towards traditional philosophy and a sympathy for an existential philosophy*



## **Characteristics of Systems Stressing Subjective Immediacy**

- ✓ *emphasis upon the supra-rational or paradoxical character of Christian teaching*
- ✓ *rejection of natural theology and theistic proof*



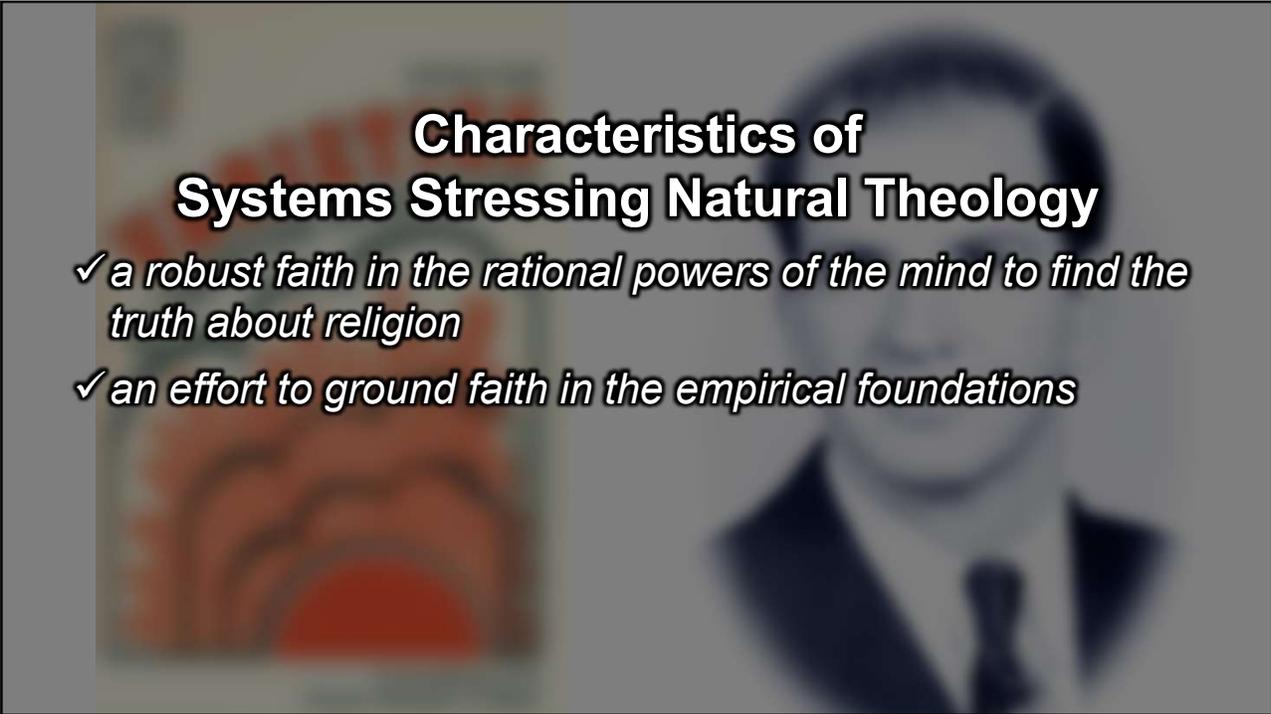
## **Characteristics of Systems Stressing Subjective Immediacy**

- ✓ *emphasis on the transcendence or hiddenness of God*
- ✓ *strong doctrine of the blinding effects of sin*
- ✓ *the apologetic of one's own personal testimony*

# According to Bernard Ramm *Varieties of Christian Apologetics*

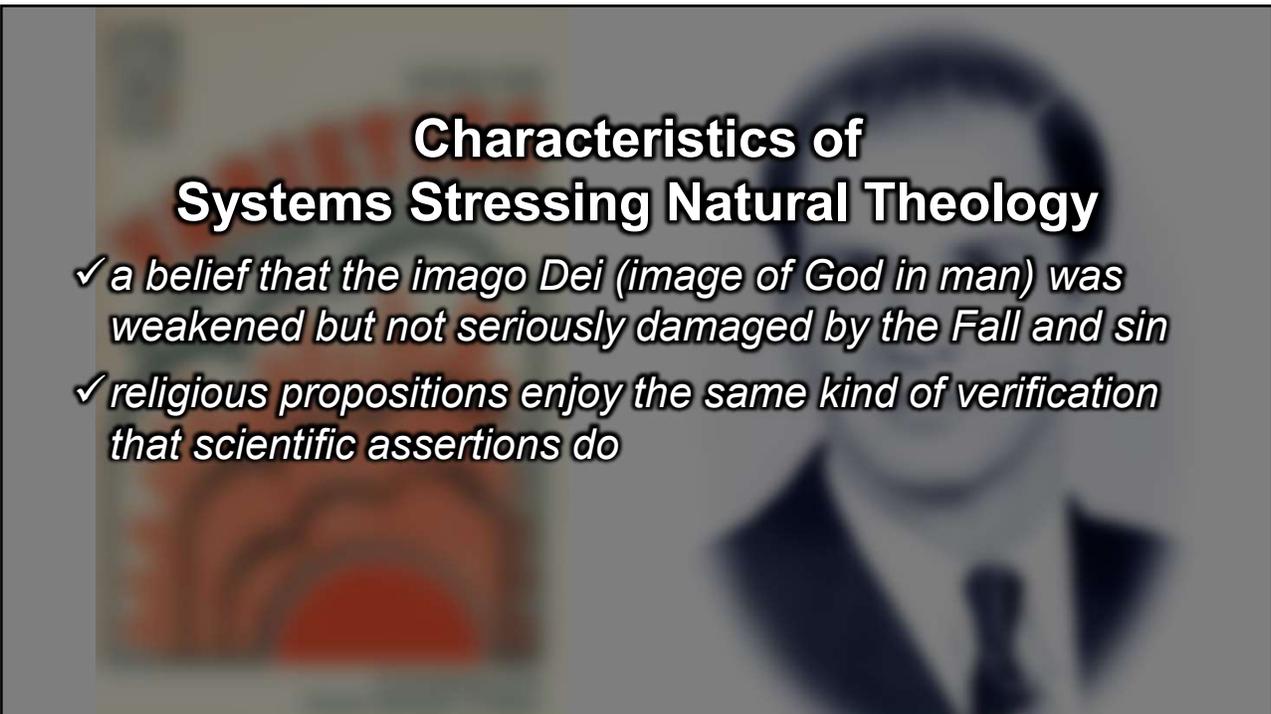
## ❖ *Systems Stressing Natural Theology*





## Characteristics of Systems Stressing Natural Theology

- ✓ *a robust faith in the rational powers of the mind to find the truth about religion*
- ✓ *an effort to ground faith in the empirical foundations*

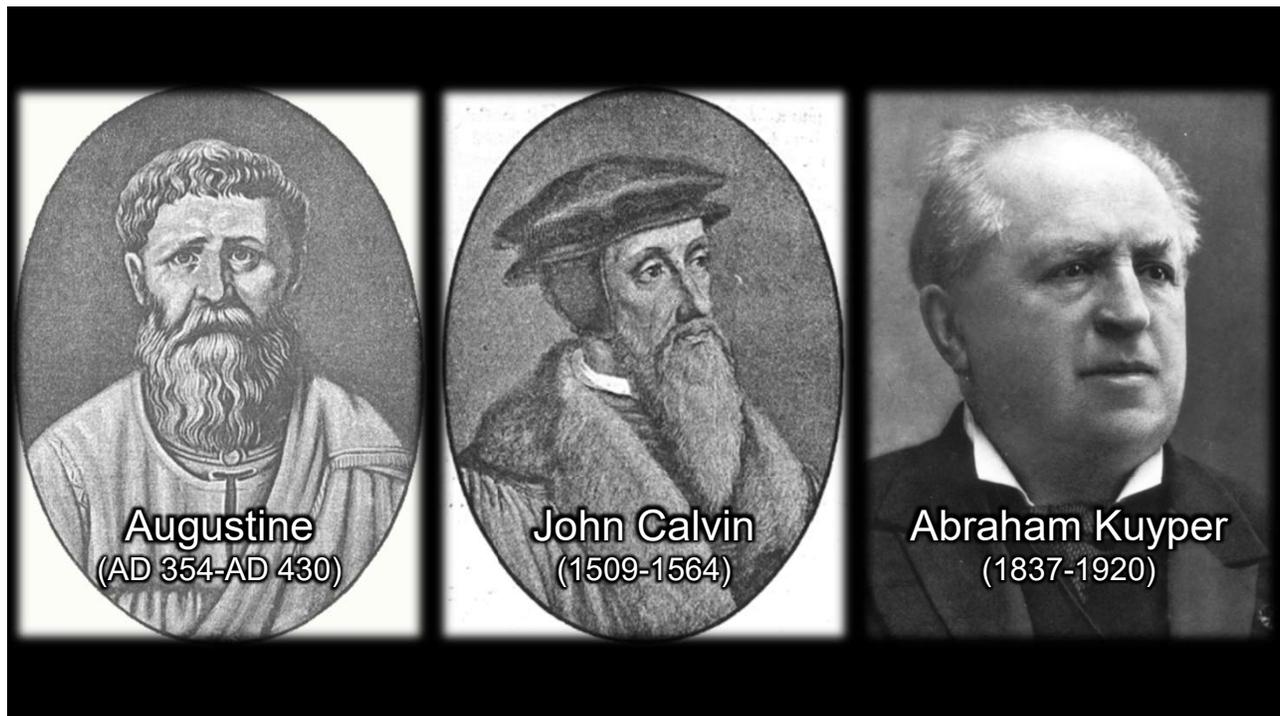


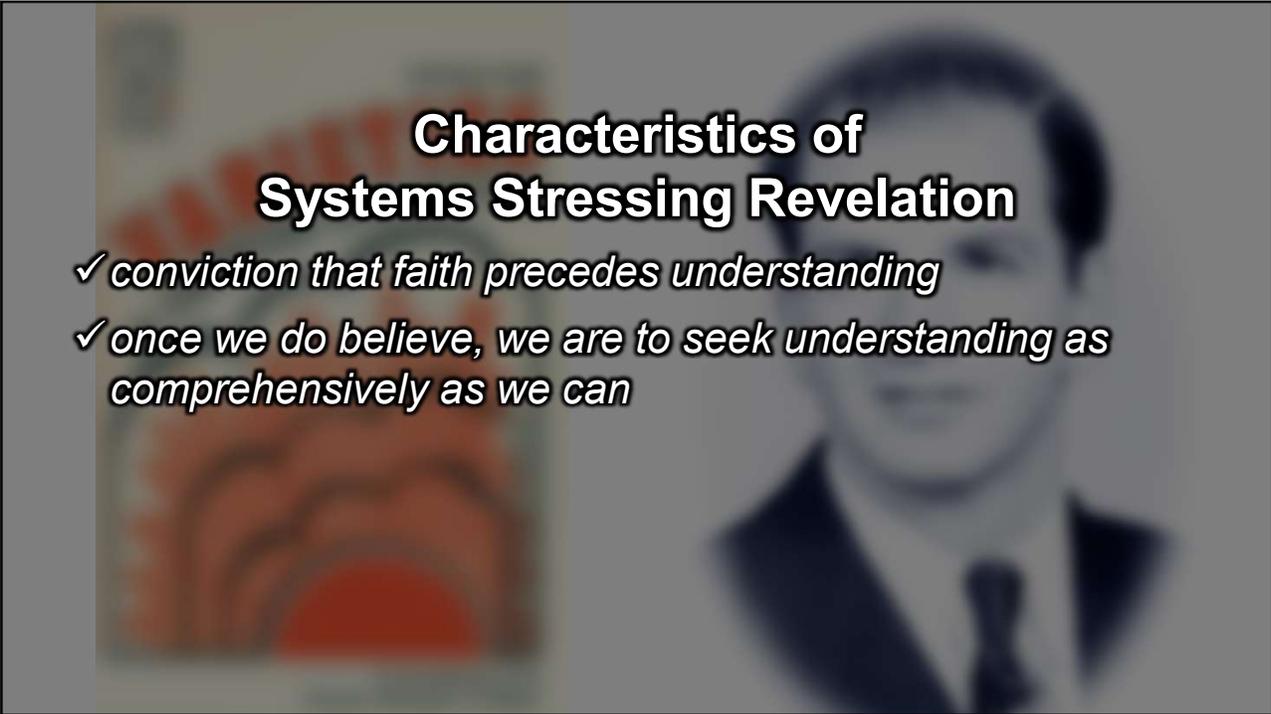
## Characteristics of Systems Stressing Natural Theology

- ✓ *a belief that the imago Dei (image of God in man) was weakened but not seriously damaged by the Fall and sin*
- ✓ *religious propositions enjoy the same kind of verification that scientific assertions do*

# According to Bernard Ramm *Varieties of Christian Apologetics*

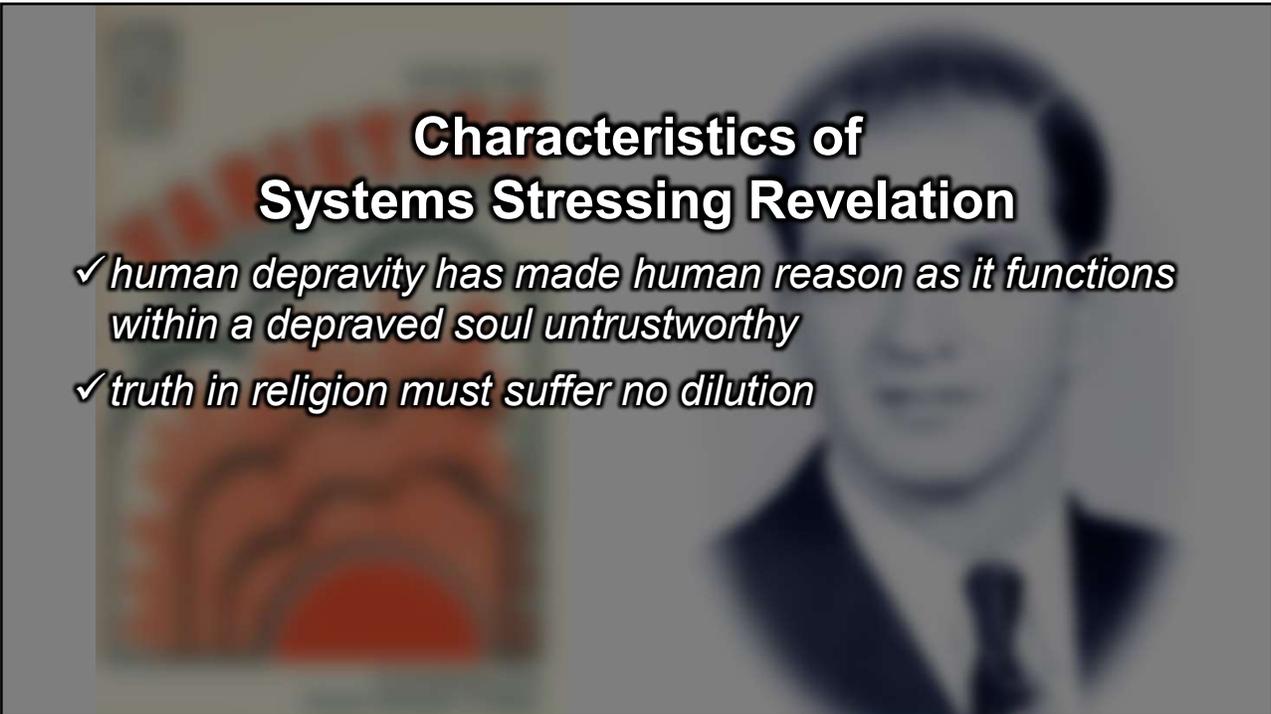
## ❖ *Systems Stressing Revelation*





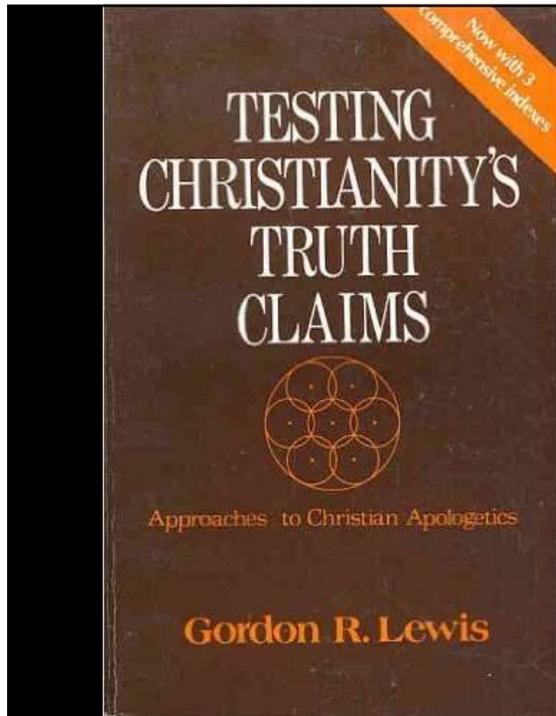
## Characteristics of Systems Stressing Revelation

- ✓ *conviction that faith precedes understanding*
- ✓ *once we do believe, we are to seek understanding as comprehensively as we can*



## Characteristics of Systems Stressing Revelation

- ✓ *human depravity has made human reason as it functions within a depraved soul untrustworthy*
- ✓ *truth in religion must suffer no dilution*



Gordon R. Lewis  
(1926-2016)

## According to Gordon Lewis *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims*

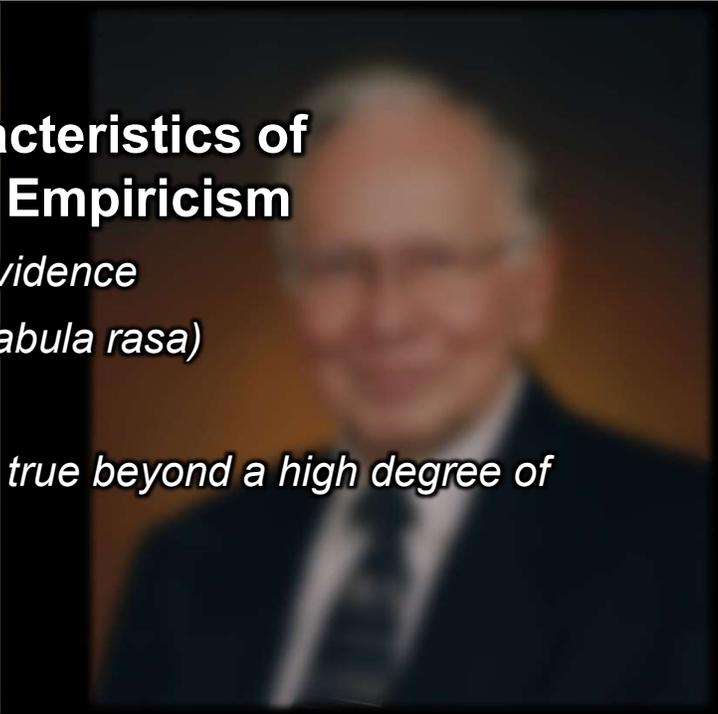
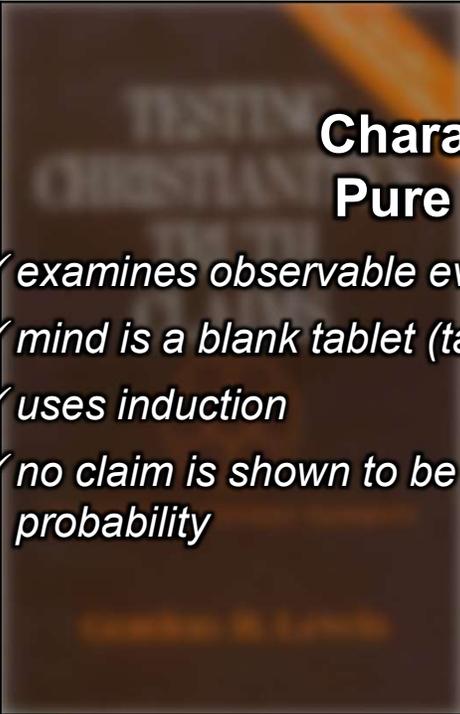
- ❖ *Pure Empiricism*
- ❖ *Rational Empiricism*
- ❖ *Rationalism*
- ❖ *Biblical Authoritarianism*
- ❖ *Mysticism*
- ❖ *Verificational Approach*

# According to Gordon Lewis *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims*

❖ *Pure Empiricism*

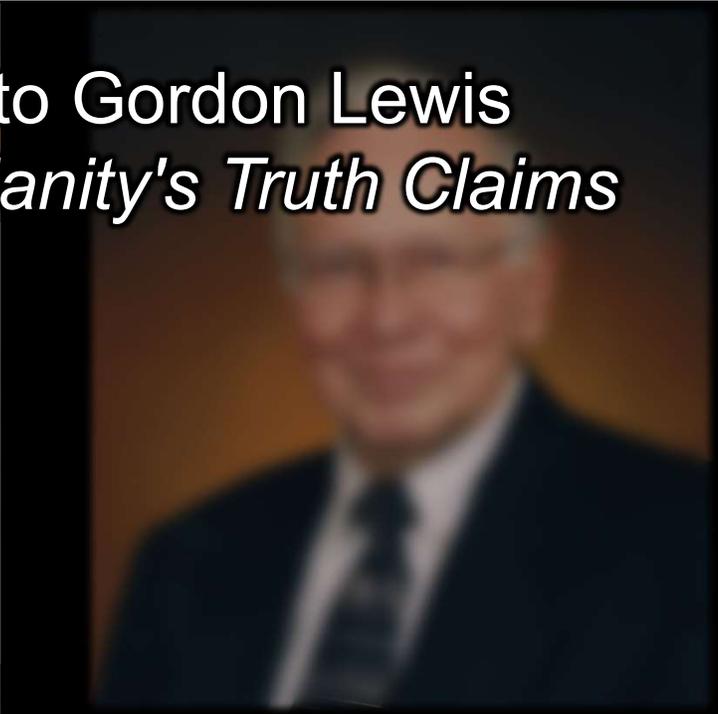


J. Oliver Buswell  
(1895-1977)



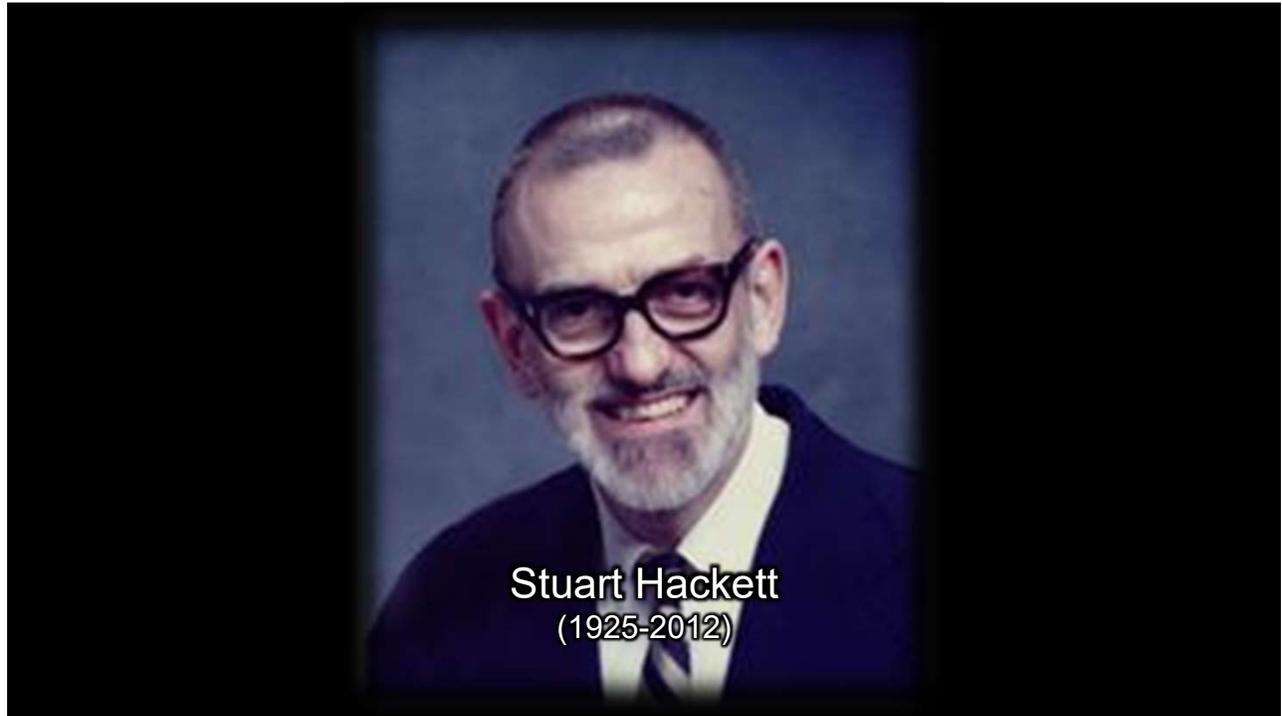
## Characteristics of Pure Empiricism

- ✓ *examines observable evidence*
- ✓ *mind is a blank tablet (tabula rasa)*
- ✓ *uses induction*
- ✓ *no claim is shown to be true beyond a high degree of probability*



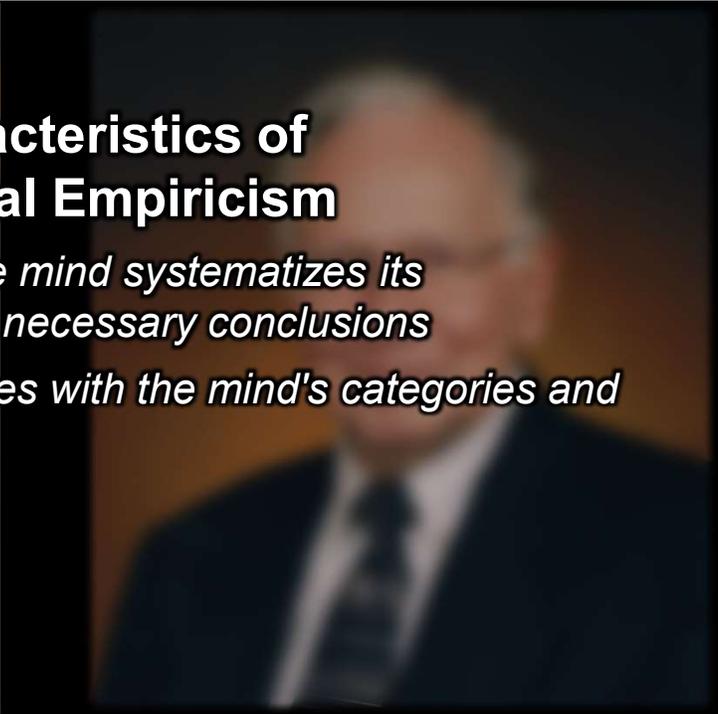
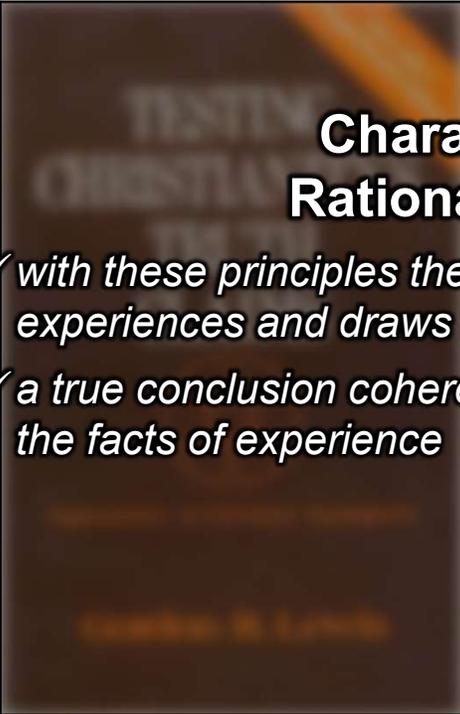
## According to Gordon Lewis *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims*

- ❖ *Rational Empiricism*

A composite image featuring a book cover on the left and a portrait of Stuart Hackett on the right. The book cover is titled "TESTING CHRISTIANITY" and "THE LOGIC OF FAITH". The portrait is a blurred version of the one in the top image.

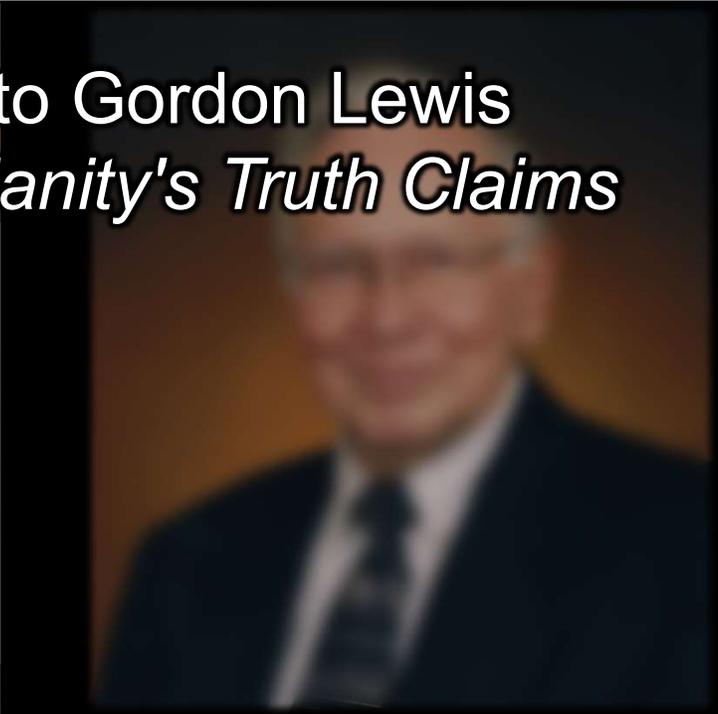
**Characteristics of Rational Empiricism**

- ✓ *truth of Christianity can be conclusively proven*
- ✓ *mind brings with it to the investigation certain "built-in" principles which make valid conclusions certain*



## Characteristics of Rational Empiricism

- ✓ *with these principles the mind systematizes its experiences and draws necessary conclusions*
- ✓ *a true conclusion coheres with the mind's categories and the facts of experience*



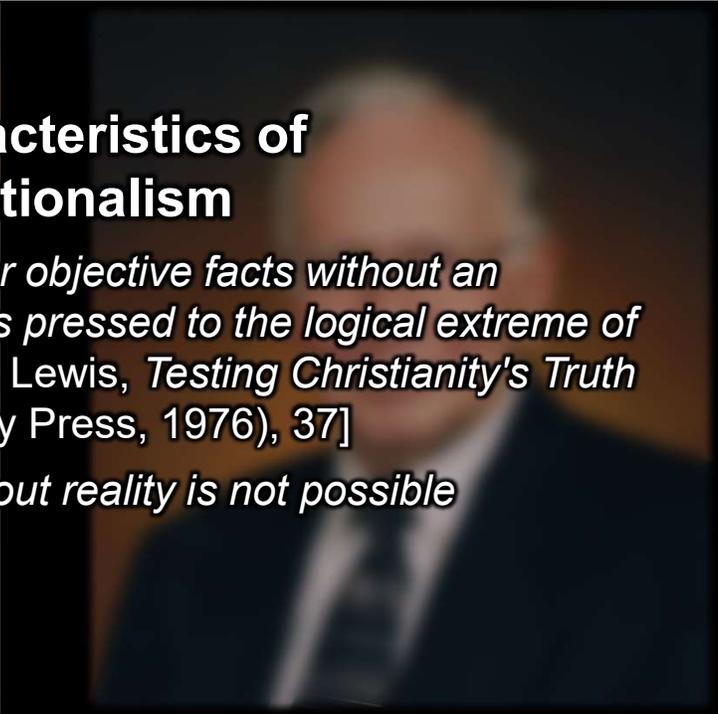
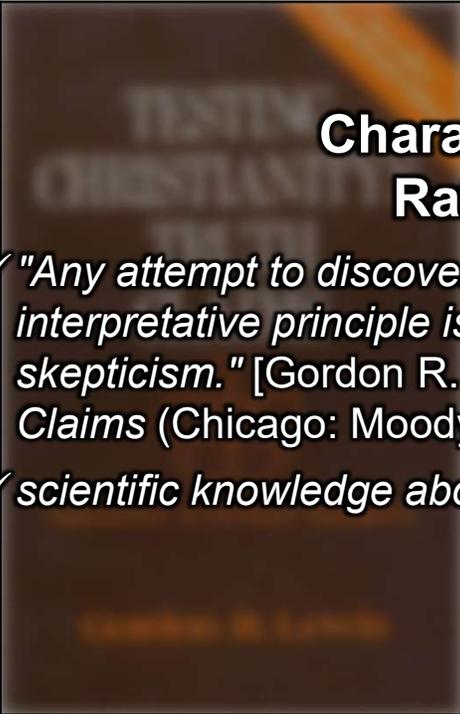
## According to Gordon Lewis *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims*

- ❖ *Rationalism*



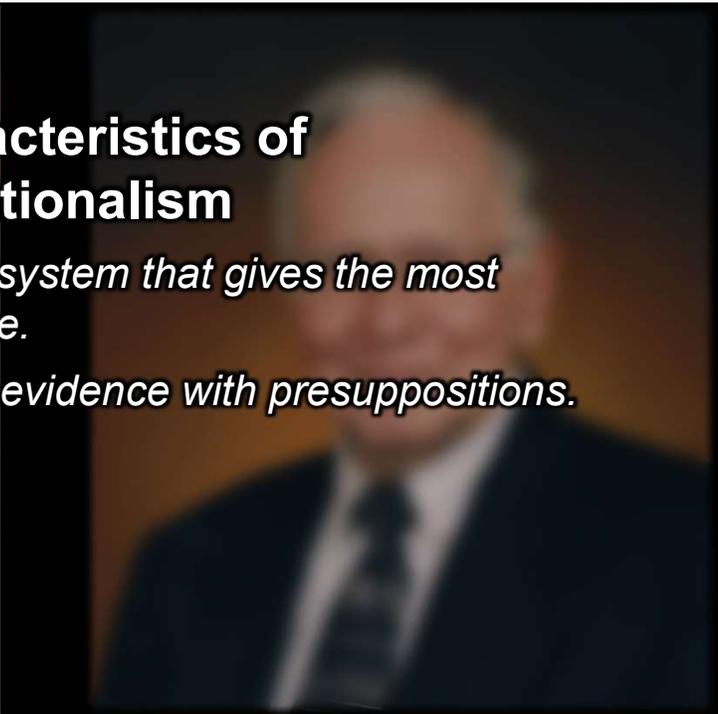
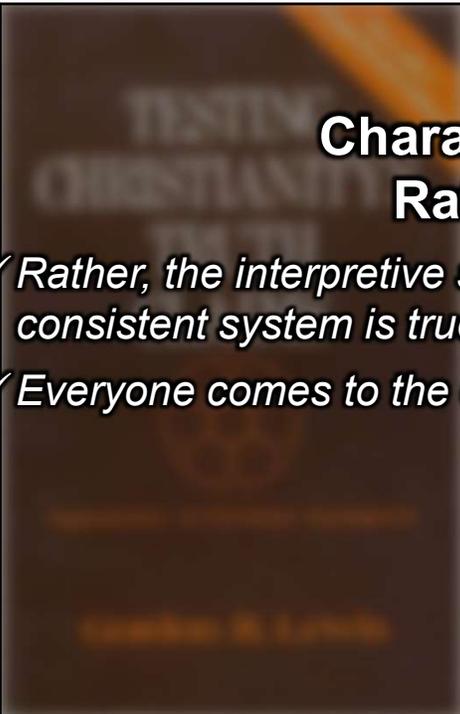
## Characteristics of Rationalism

- ✓ agrees with Hackett that the mind has principles of reasoning "programmed in"
- ✓ disagrees with Hackett that the starting point of thought is objective experience



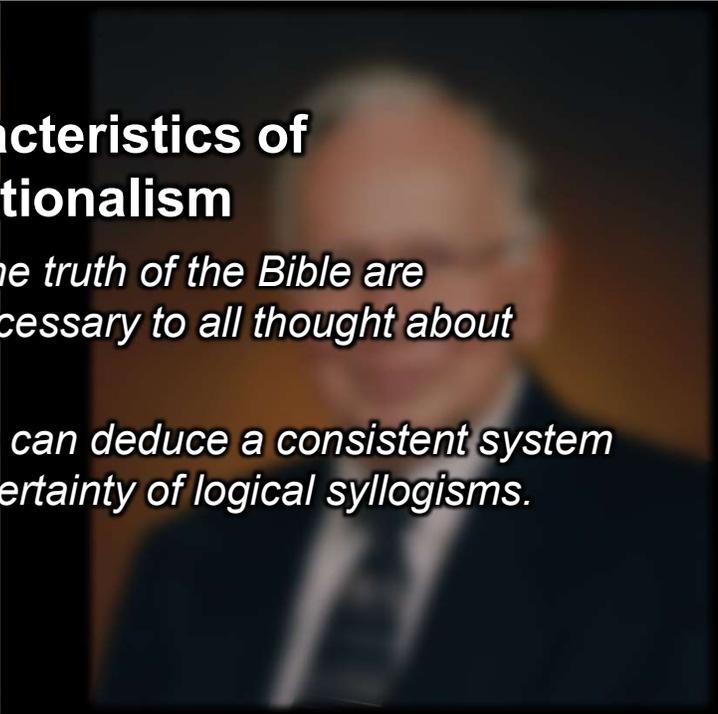
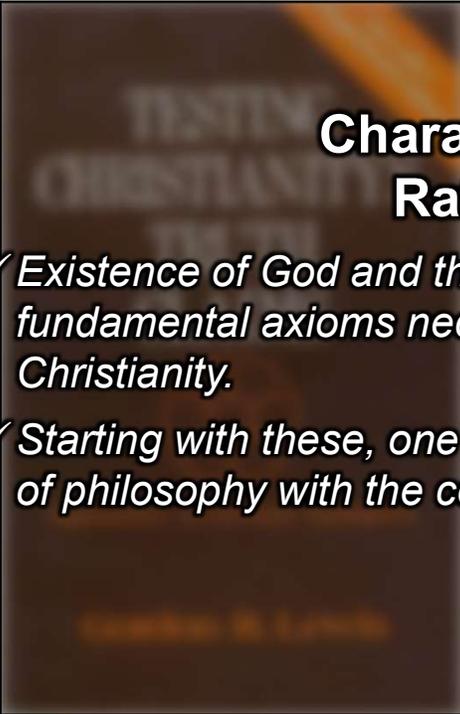
## Characteristics of Rationalism

- ✓ *"Any attempt to discover objective facts without an interpretative principle is pressed to the logical extreme of skepticism." [Gordon R. Lewis, *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1976), 37]*
- ✓ *scientific knowledge about reality is not possible*



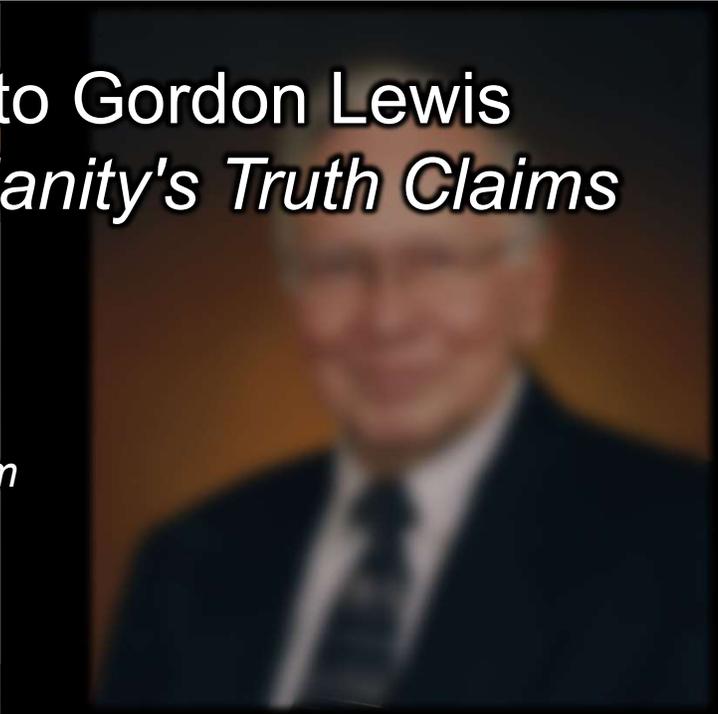
## Characteristics of Rationalism

- ✓ *Rather, the interpretive system that gives the most consistent system is true.*
- ✓ *Everyone comes to the evidence with presuppositions.*



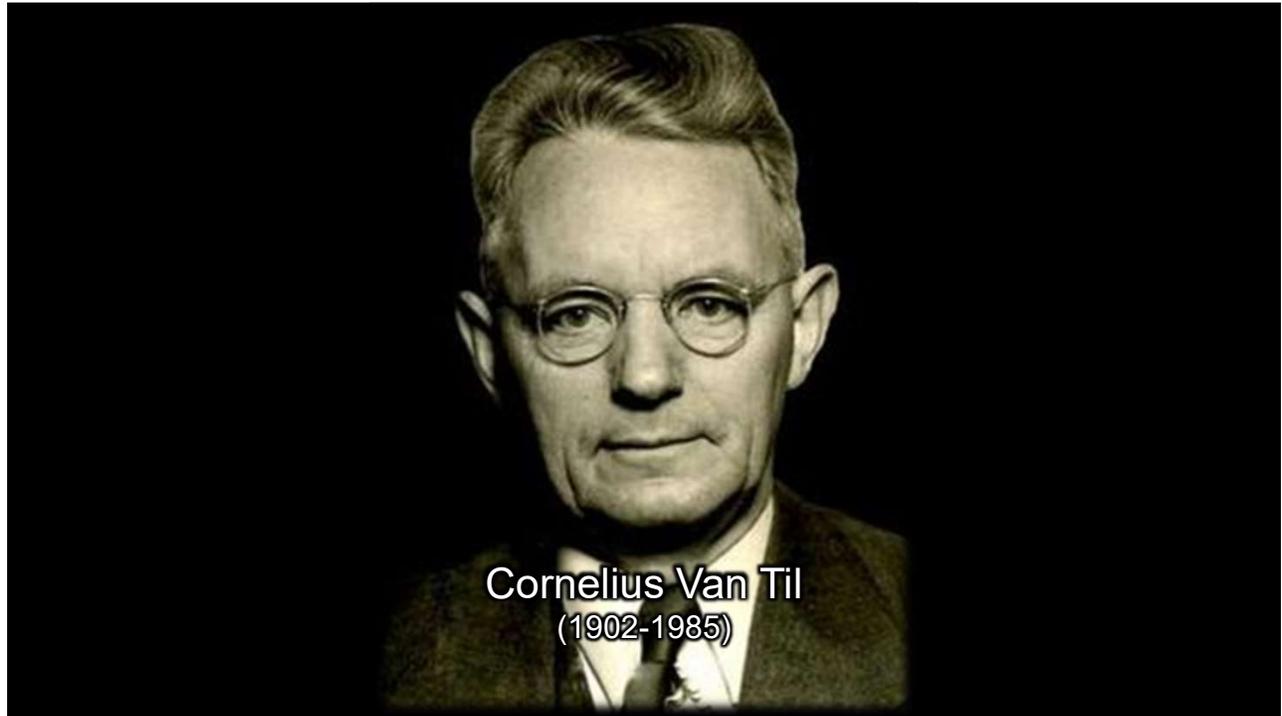
## Characteristics of Rationalism

- ✓ *Existence of God and the truth of the Bible are fundamental axioms necessary to all thought about Christianity.*
- ✓ *Starting with these, one can deduce a consistent system of philosophy with the certainty of logical syllogisms.*



## According to Gordon Lewis *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims*

- ❖ *Biblical Authoritarianism*

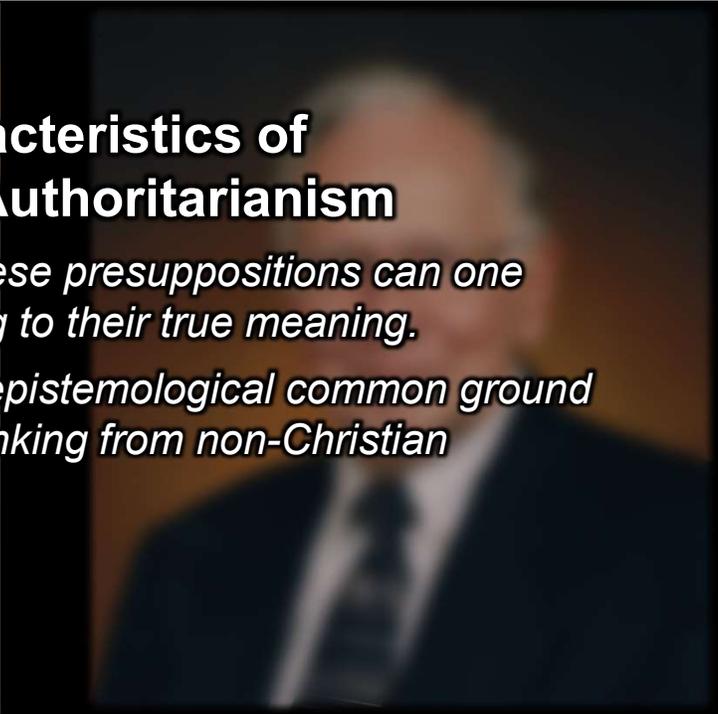
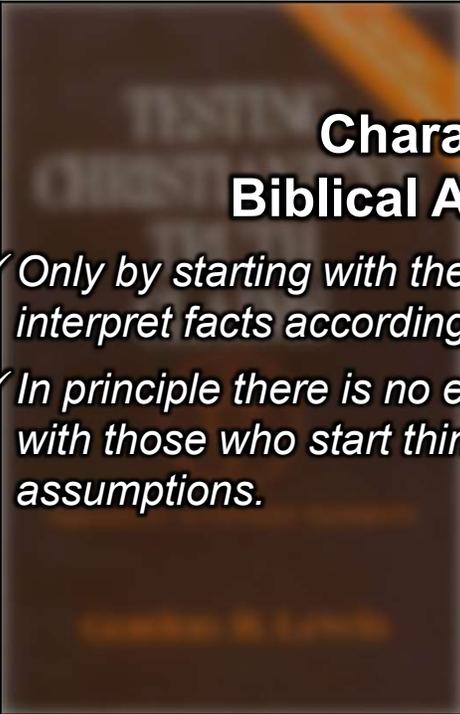


Cornelius Van Til  
(1902-1985)

A composite image featuring a book cover on the left and a portrait of Cornelius Van Til on the right. The book cover is dark with the title 'TESTING CHRISTIANITY' visible. The portrait is a color photograph of Van Til in a suit and tie, smiling slightly.

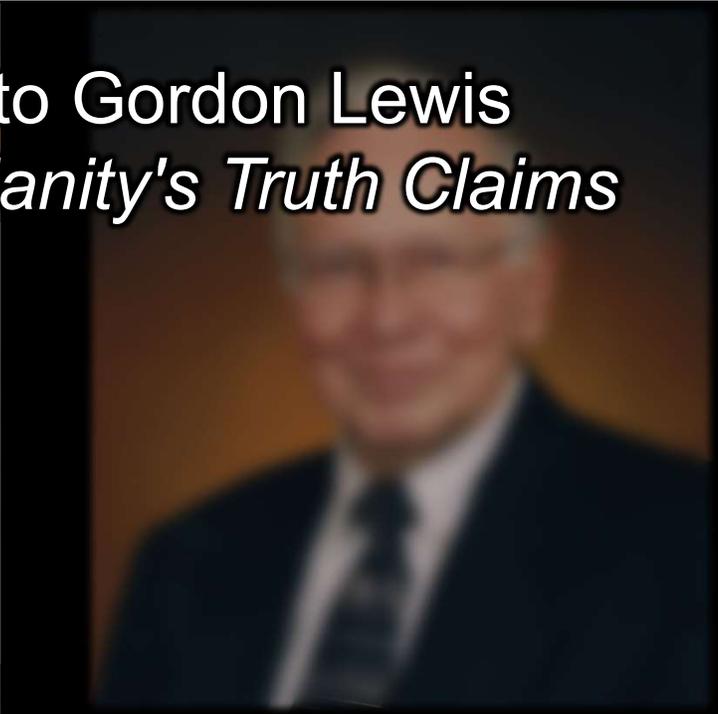
## Characteristics of Biblical Authoritarianism

- ✓ *Begins with the presupposition of the triune God and the truth of Scripture.*
- ✓ *They are not justified by their consistency or confirmation by facts.*



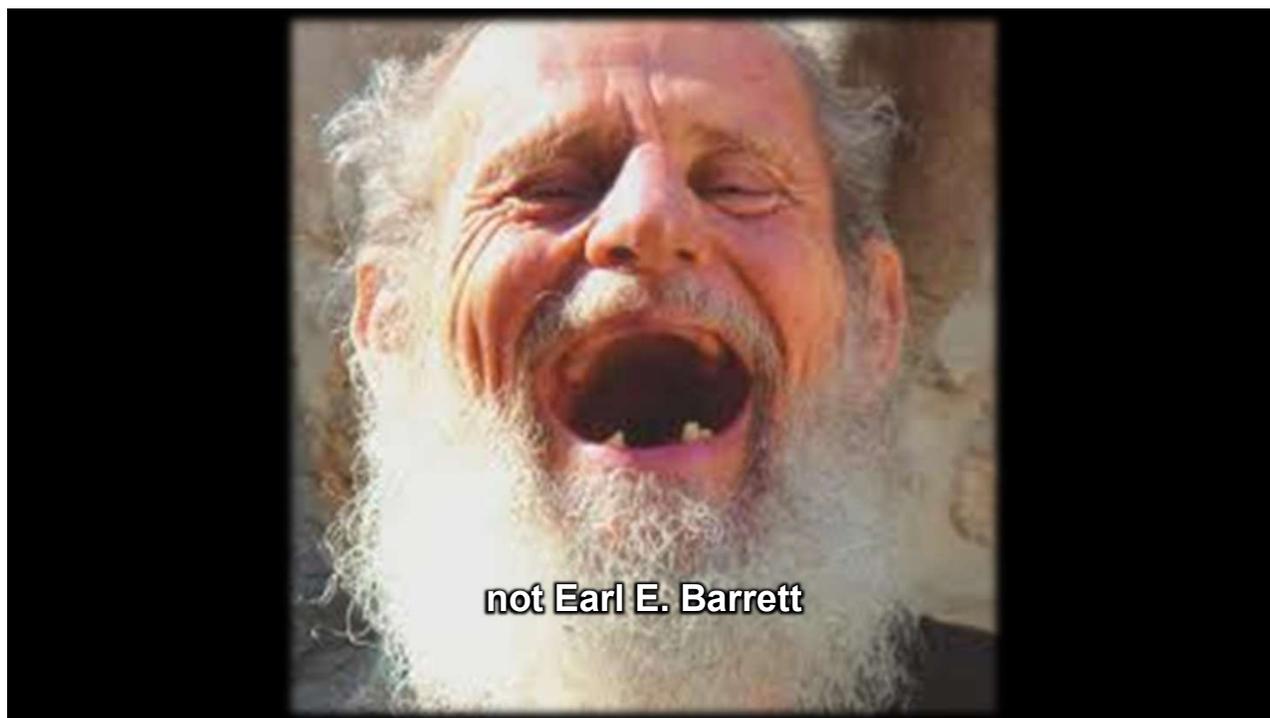
## Characteristics of Biblical Authoritarianism

- ✓ *Only by starting with these presuppositions can one interpret facts according to their true meaning.*
- ✓ *In principle there is no epistemological common ground with those who start thinking from non-Christian assumptions.*



## According to Gordon Lewis *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims*

❖ *Mysticism*





## Characteristics of Mysticism

- ✓ *"The case for Christianity ... is more significant from internal and immediate experience of God Himself.\*"*
- ✓ *"No argument is considered convincing until a person has a unique, personal encounter with God."\**

\*[Lewis, *Testing*, p. 37, 38]

# According to Gordon Lewis *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims*

❖ *Verificational Approach*

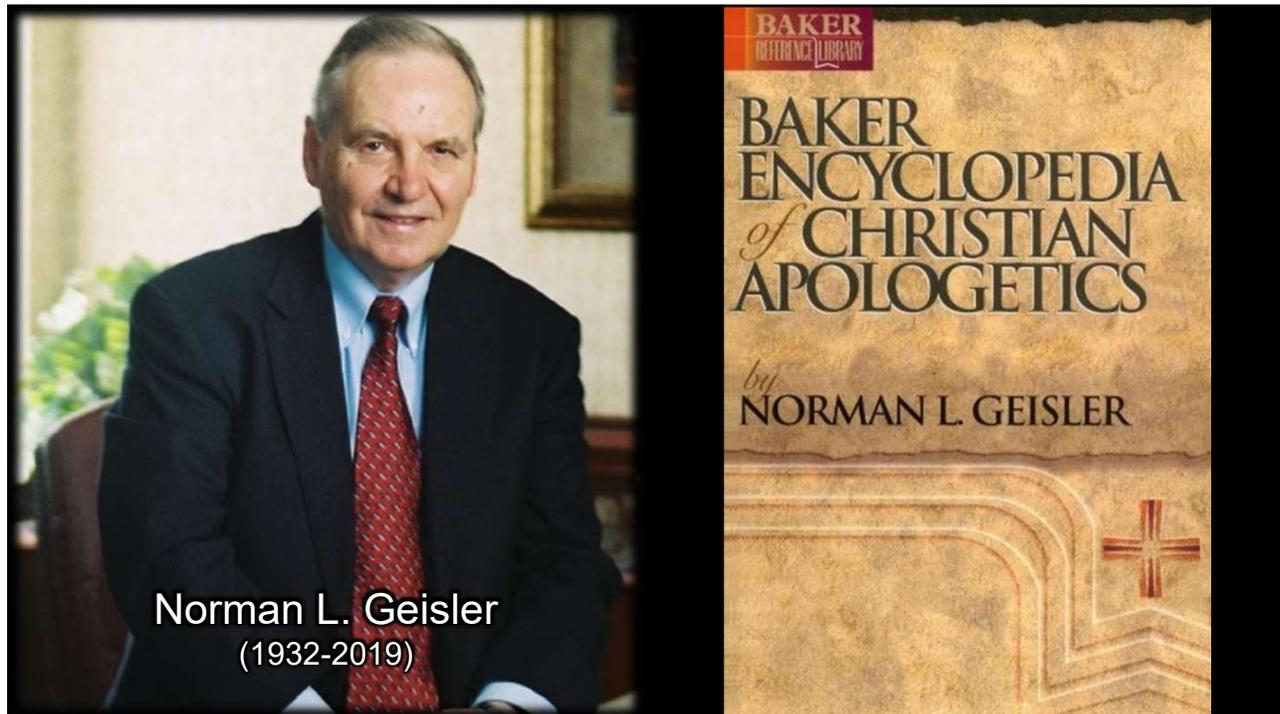


Edward John Carnell  
(1919-1967)

## Characteristics of the Vericational Approach

- ✓ *Treats Christianity's truth-claims as scientific hypothesis to be verified by man's total experience*
- ✓ *"The hypothesis that can consistently account for both internal and external data with the fewest difficulties is true."\**

\*[Lewis, Testing, p. 38]



# According to Norman Geisler

*Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*

- ❖ *Classical*
- ❖ *Evidential*
- ❖ *Experiential*
- ❖ *Historical*
- ❖ *Presuppositional*

CHRISTIAN  
APOLOGETICS  
NORMAN L. GEISLER

# According to Norman Geisler

*Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*

- ❖ *Classical*

CHRISTIAN  
APOLOGETICS  
NORMAN L. GEISLER



## Characteristics of Classical Apologetics

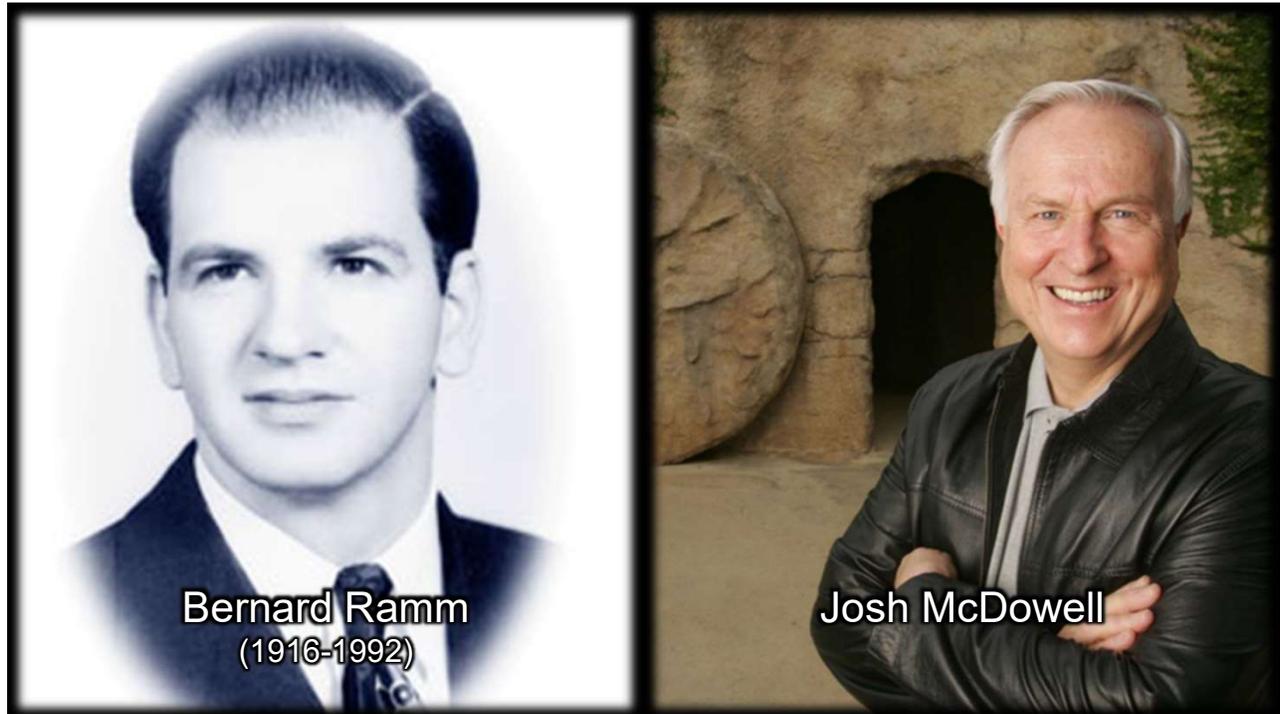
- ✓ *two basic steps supporting truth of Christianity: theistic arguments, evidential arguments*
- ✓ *theistic arguments establish the truth of theism apart from special revelation*
- ✓ *logical inference drawn from the existence of God to the possibility of miracles*

## Characteristics of Classical Apologetics

- ✓ *argument from miracles essential to the second step*
- ✓ *also historical evidences are amassed to substantiate the New Testament*
- ✓ *New Testament is used to show who Jesus is*

## According to Norman Geisler *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*

- ❖ *Evidential*



**Characteristics of Evidential Apologetics**

- ✓ *overlaps with Classical approach in the use of evidences*
- ✓ *less stress on the logical priority of theism to other evidences*
- ✓ *sometimes uses evidence of miracles as evidence of God*

# According to Norman Geisler

*Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*

❖ *Experiential*



## Characteristics of Experiential Apologetics

- ✓ *appeals primarily if not exclusively to experience as evidence for the Christian faith*
- ✓ *experiences can range from religious experience in general to mystical experience*

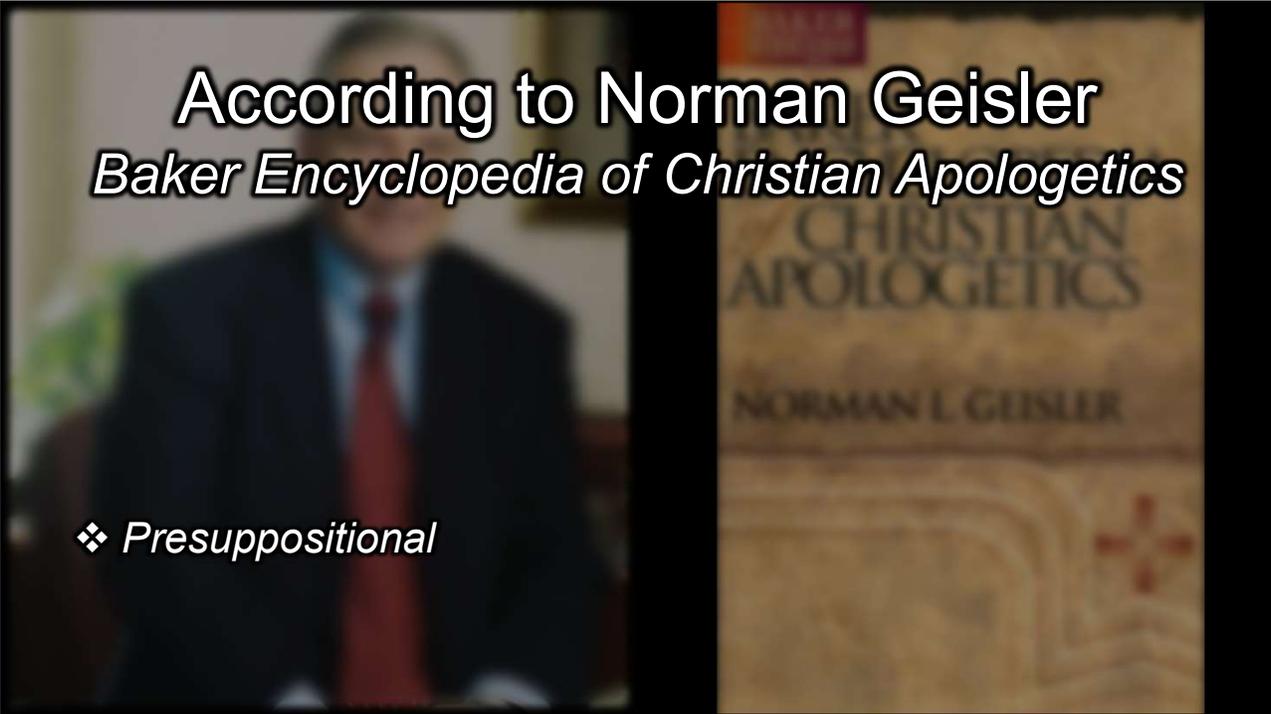
## According to Norman Geisler *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*

- ❖ *Historical*



## Characteristics of Historical Apologetics

- ✓ *generally focuses on historical evidence*
- ✓ *more of a logical order of the evidence than one finds in evidentialism (viz., claims from Scripture establishing theism; Bible is the Word of God; Christ is the unique Son of God)*



**According to Norman Geisler**  
*Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*

❖ *Presuppositional*



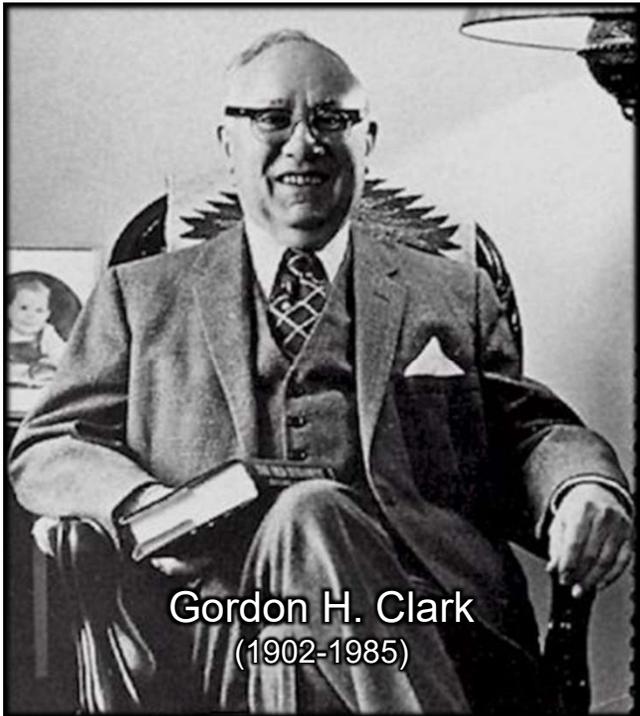
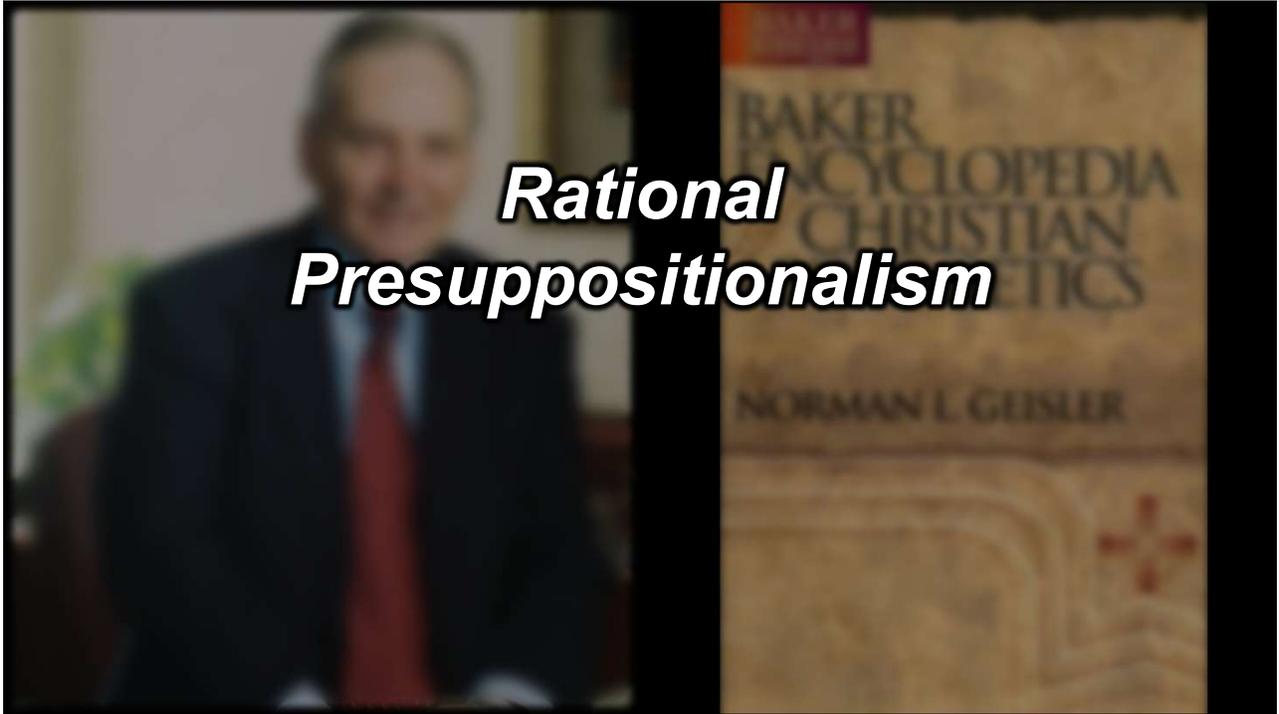
***Revelational  
Presuppositionalism***



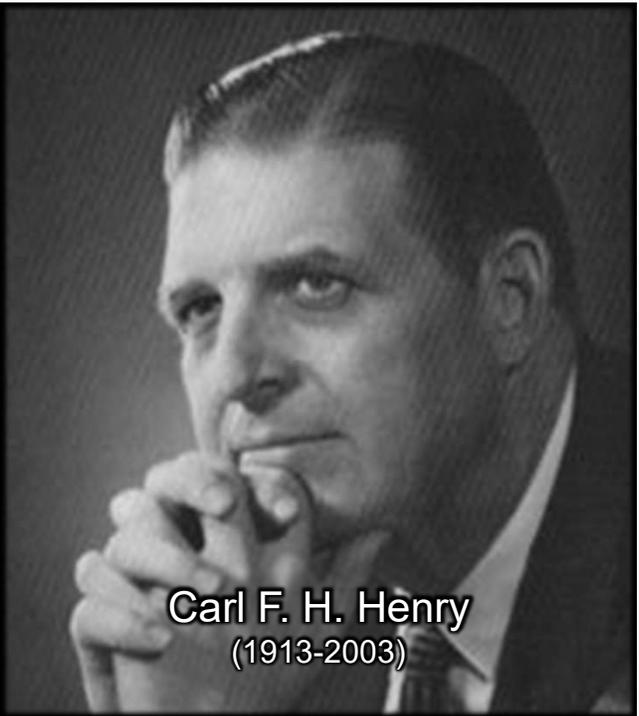
## Characteristics of Revelational Presuppositionalism

- ✓ *one must posit the Triune God and Scripture before any sense can be made of anything else*
- ✓ *referred to as a transcendental argument*

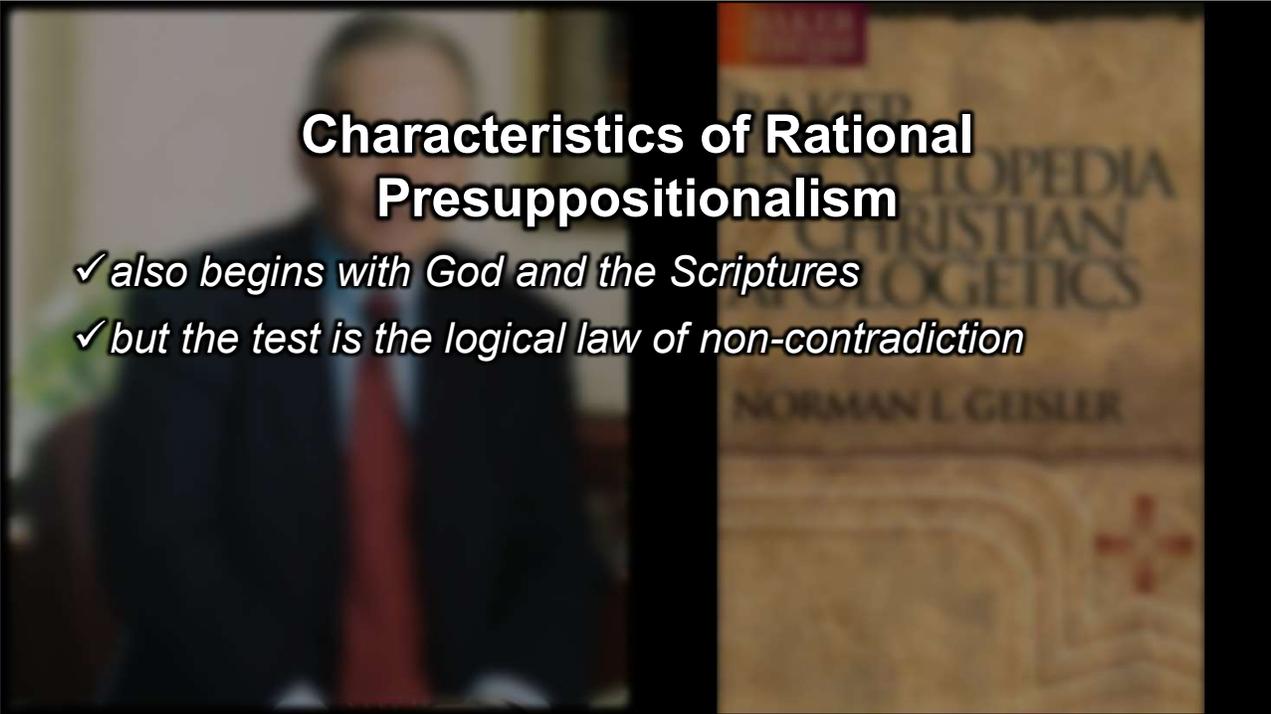
***Rational  
Presuppositionalism***



**Gordon H. Clark**  
(1902-1985)

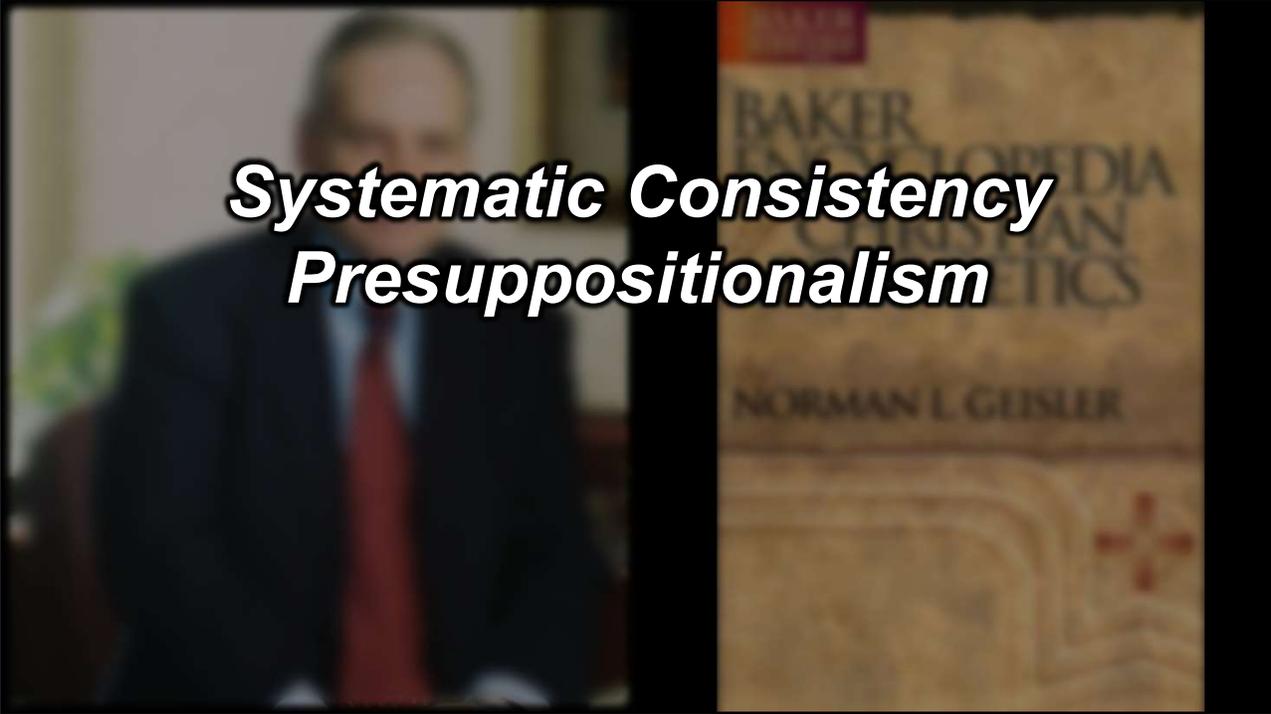


**Carl F. H. Henry**  
(1913-2003)

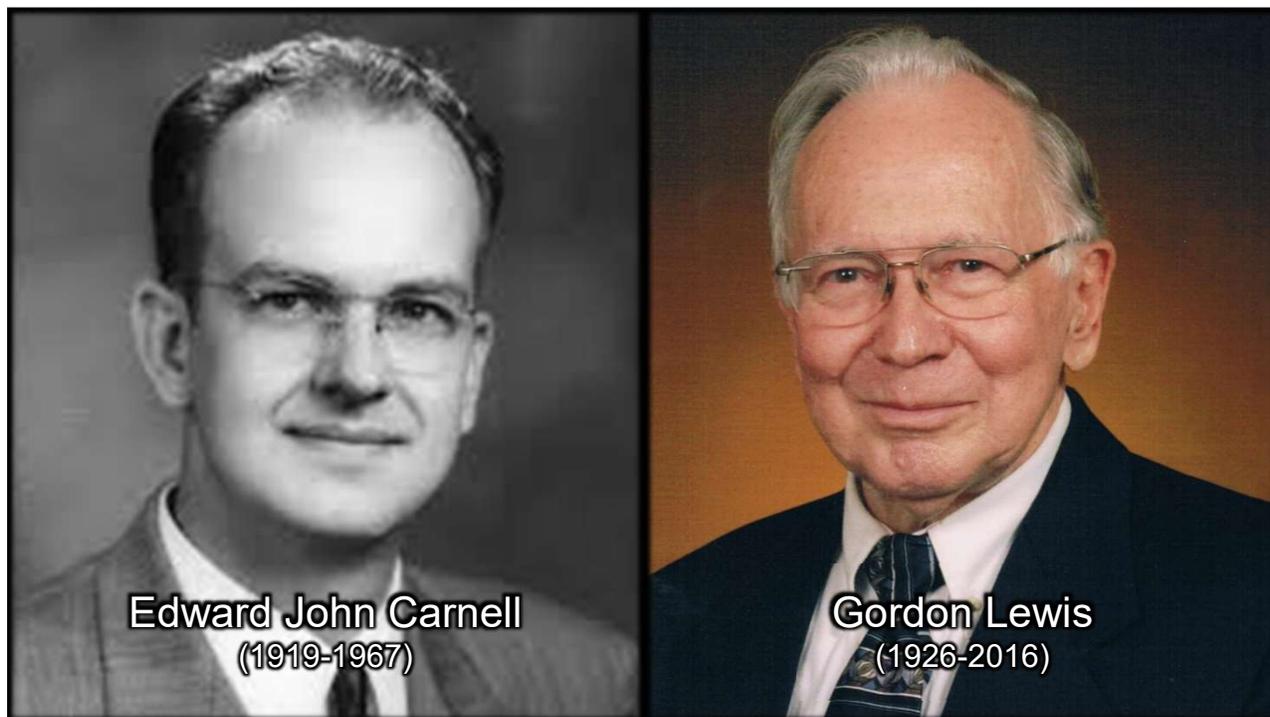


## **Characteristics of Rational Presuppositionalism**

- ✓ *also begins with God and the Scriptures*
- ✓ *but the test is the logical law of non-contradiction*



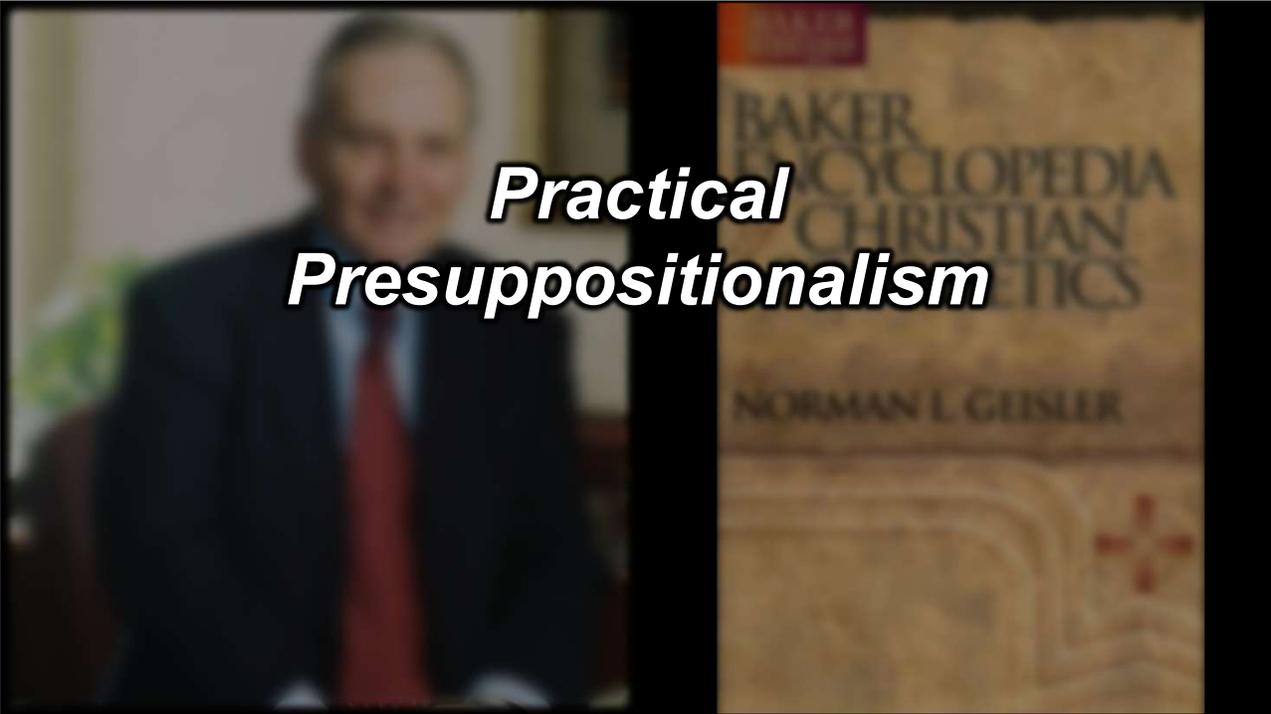
## ***Systematic Consistency Presuppositionalism***



**Characteristics of Systematic Consistency  
Presuppositionalism**

- ✓ *a true system must be rationally consistent*
- ✓ *"It must comprehensively take into account all facts."\**

\*[Norman L. Geisler, *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999), s.v., "Apologetics, Types of," 41-44]

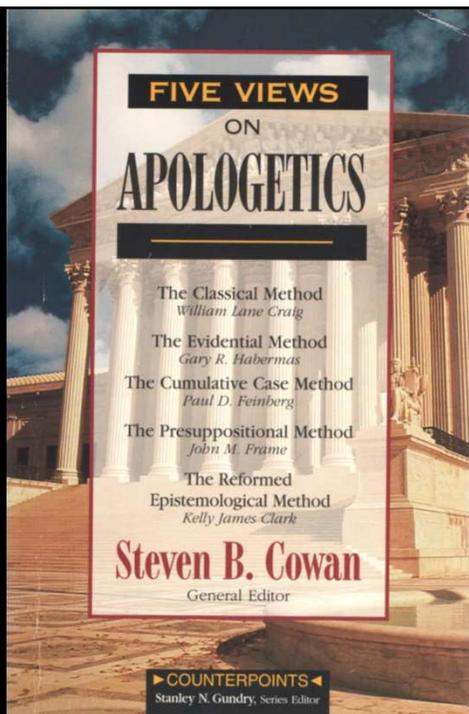
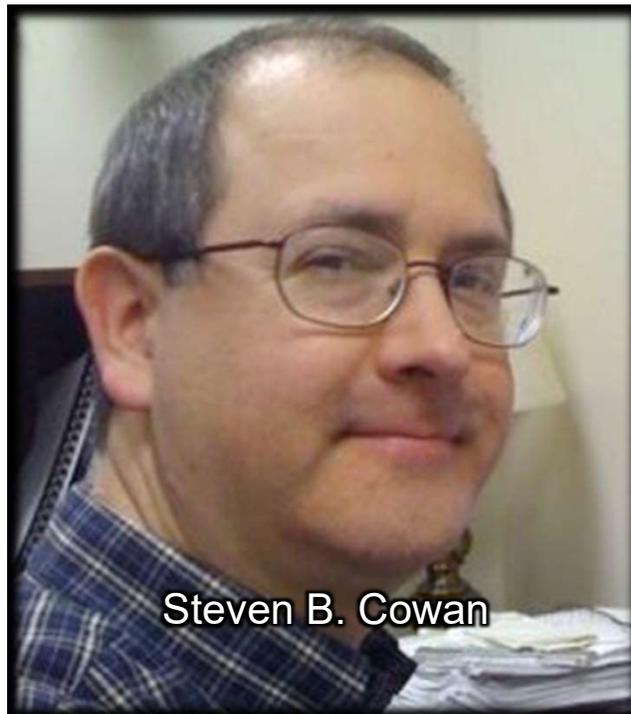
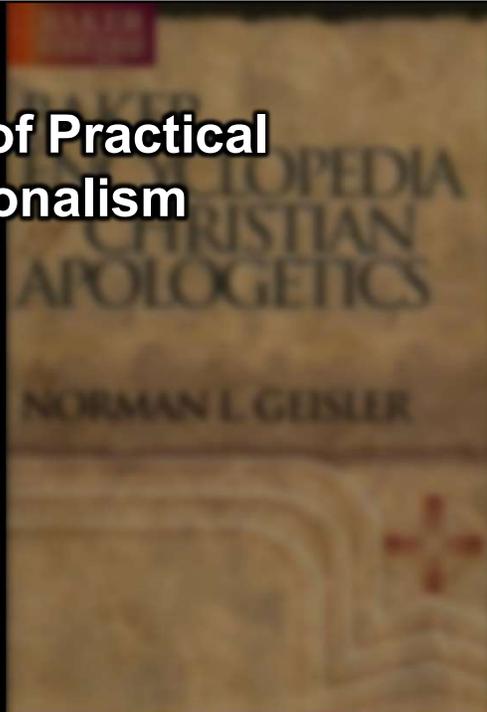


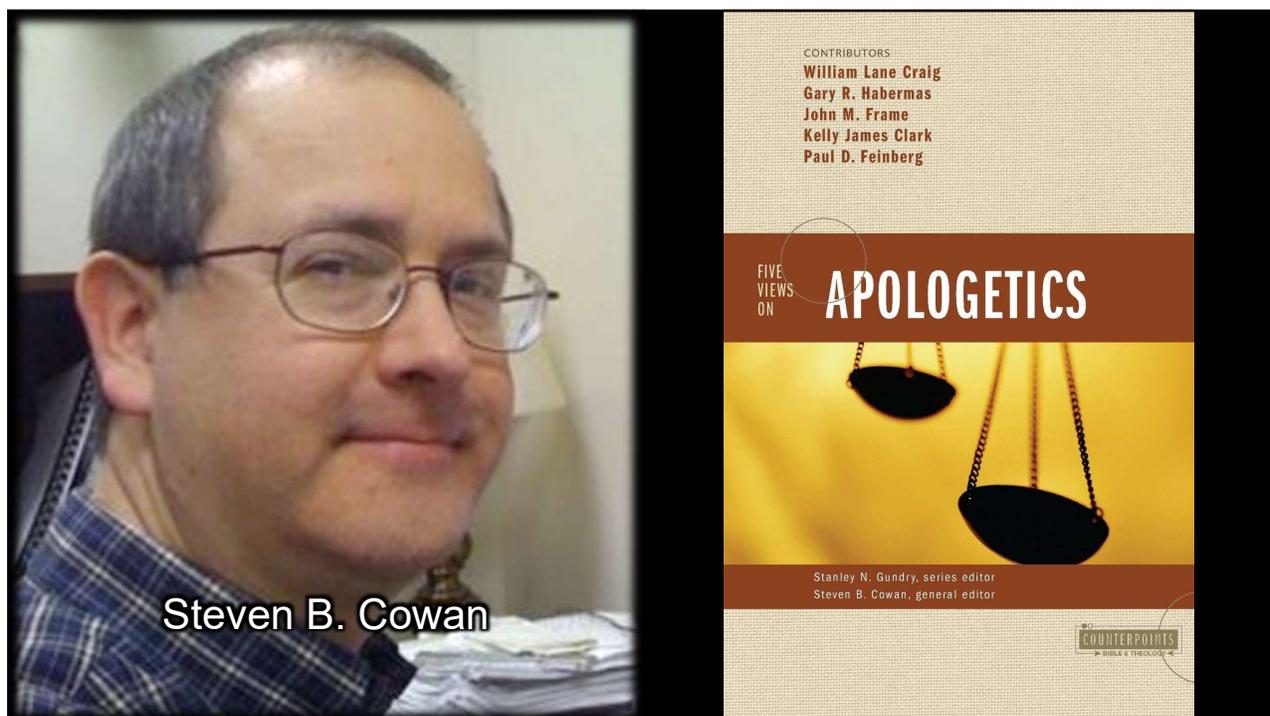
***Practical  
Presuppositionalism***



## Characteristics of Practical Presuppositionalism

- ✓ *false systems are unlivable*
- ✓ *only Christianity is livable*





Steven B. Cowan

## According to Steven B. Cowan *Five Views on Apologetics*

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

# According to Steven B. Cowan

## *Five Views on Apologetics*

❖ *Classical Method*



## Characteristics of the Classical Method

- ✓ *uses natural theology to establish theism*
- ✓ *moves to a presentation of the historical evidences for the deity of Christ, the trustworthiness of Scripture, etc. to show that Christianity "is the best version of theism, as opposed to ... Judaism and Islam."*\*

\*[Steven B. Cowan, ed. *Five Views on Apologetics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), 15]

## According to Steven B. Cowan *Five Views on Apologetics*

❖ *Evidential Method*



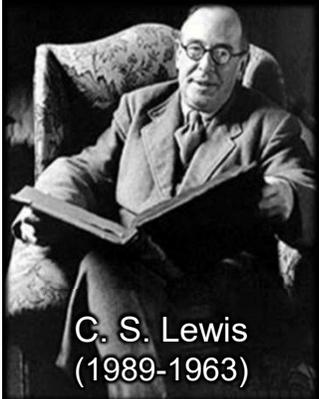
## Characteristics of the Evidential Method

- ✓ *characterized as the "one-step" approach*
- ✓ *admits to the legitimacy of the miracles-to-God argument*
- ✓ *tends to focus chiefly on the "legitimacy of accumulating various historical and other inductive arguments for the truth of Christianity."\**

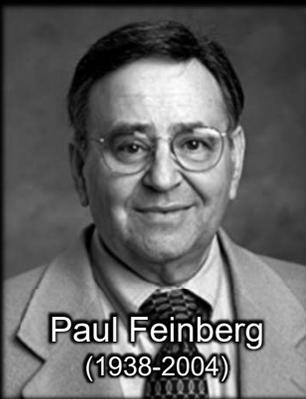
\*[Cowan, ed. *Five Views*, p. 16]

# According to Steven B. Cowan *Five Views on Apologetics*

❖ *Cumulative Case Method*



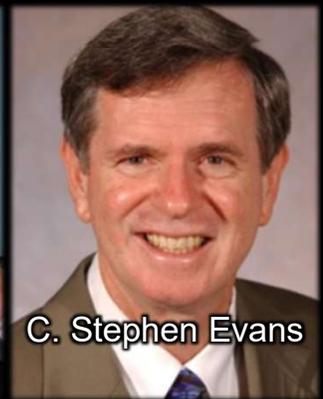
C. S. Lewis  
(1897-1963)



Paul Feinberg  
(1938-2004)



Basil Mitchell  
(1917-2011)



C. Stephen Evans

## Characteristics of the Cumulative Case Method

- ✓ *"does not conform to the ordinary pattern of deductive or inductive reasoning."*\*
- ✓ *seeks to supplement the primarily historical approach of Evidentialism with additional evidence*

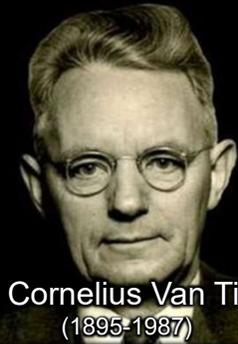
\*[Cowan, ed. *Five Views*, quoting Basil Mitchell, *The Justification of Religious Belief* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981), p. 18]

## Characteristics of the Cumulative Case Method

- ✓ *maintains that evidentialists will not object to the supplementations that the Cumulative Case approach makes.*

# According to Steven B. Cowan *Five Views on Apologetics*

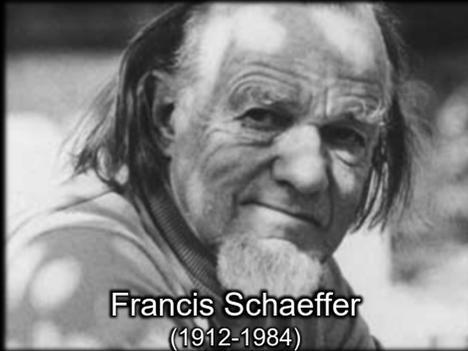
❖ *Presuppositional Method*



Cornelius Van Til  
(1895-1987)



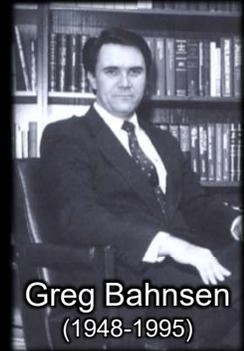
Gordon H. Clark  
(1902-1985)



Francis Schaeffer  
(1912-1984)



John Frame



Greg Bahnsen  
(1948-1995)

## Characteristics of the Presuppositional Method

- ✓ *"Due to the noetic effects of sin, presuppositionalists usually hold that there is not enough common ground between believers and unbelievers that would allow followers of the ... [other] methods to accomplish their goals."\**

\*[Cowan, ed. *Five Views*, p. 18]

## Characteristics of the Presuppositional Method

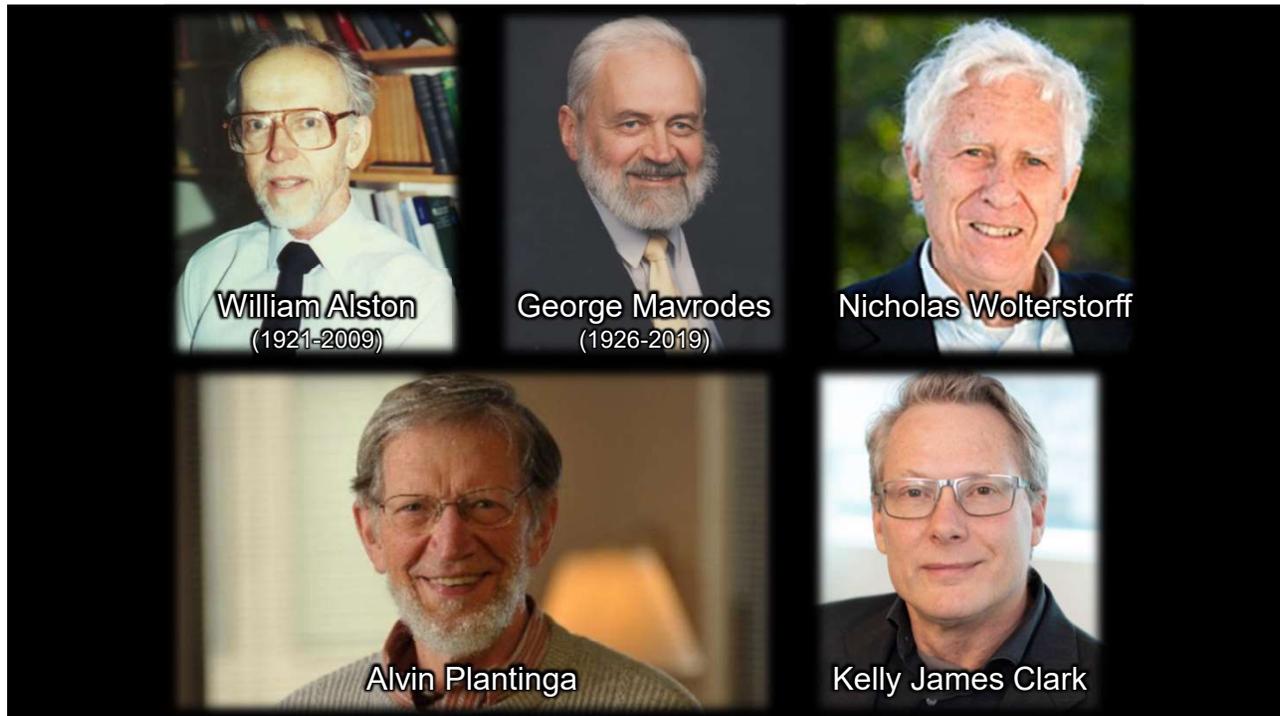
- ✓ *Apologetics must start with the truth of Christianity.*
- ✓ *Unless the truth of Christianity (triune God, authority of Scripture) is presupposed, nothing can be known at all.*

## Characteristics of the Presuppositional Method

- ✓ *Christianity makes proving and knowing possible.*
- ✓ *Christianity is transcendentally necessary.*

## According to Steven B. Cowan *Five Views on Apologetics*

- ❖ *Reformed Epistemological Method*



## Characteristics of the Reformed Epistemological Method

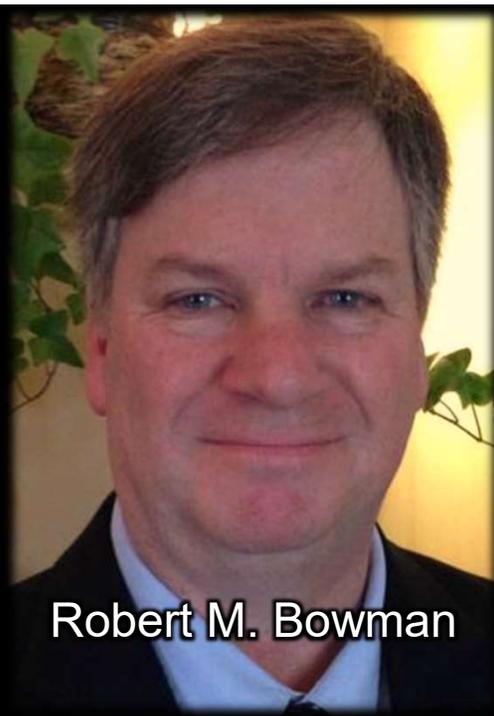
- ✓ *Rejects the widespread assumption that all our beliefs must be subjected to the criticism of reason.*
- ✓ *Rejects that widespread assumption that if a belief is unsupported by evidence of some kind, that belief is irrational.*

## Characteristics of the Reformed Epistemological Method

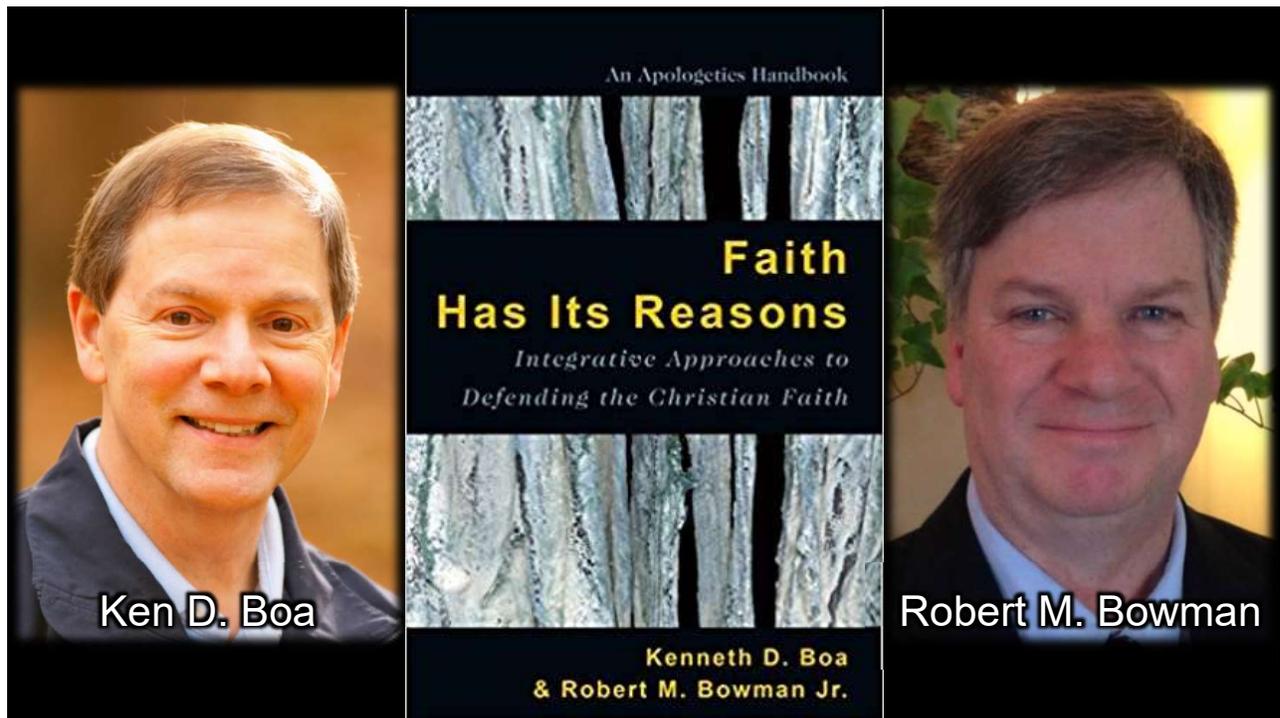
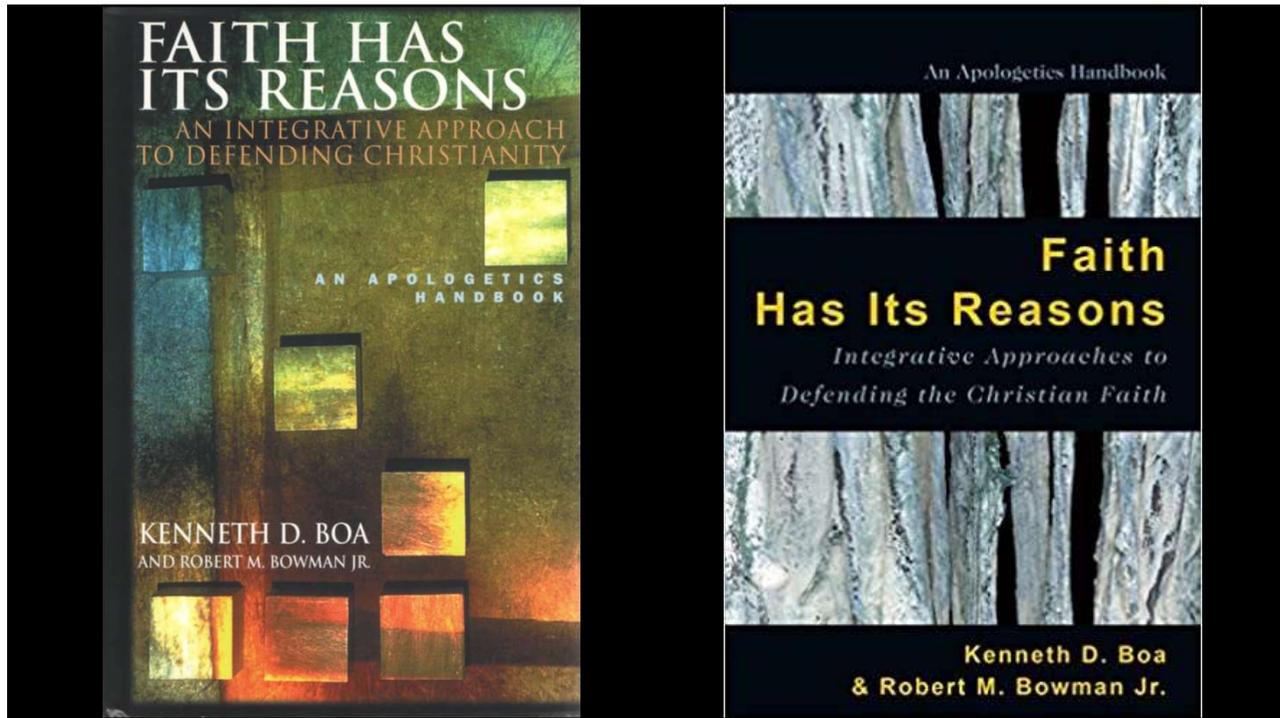
- ✓ *Thus, the approach challenges the "evidentialist" assumptions.*
- ✓ *Opts rather for the notion that one can be justified in believing certain things for which there is no evidence.*

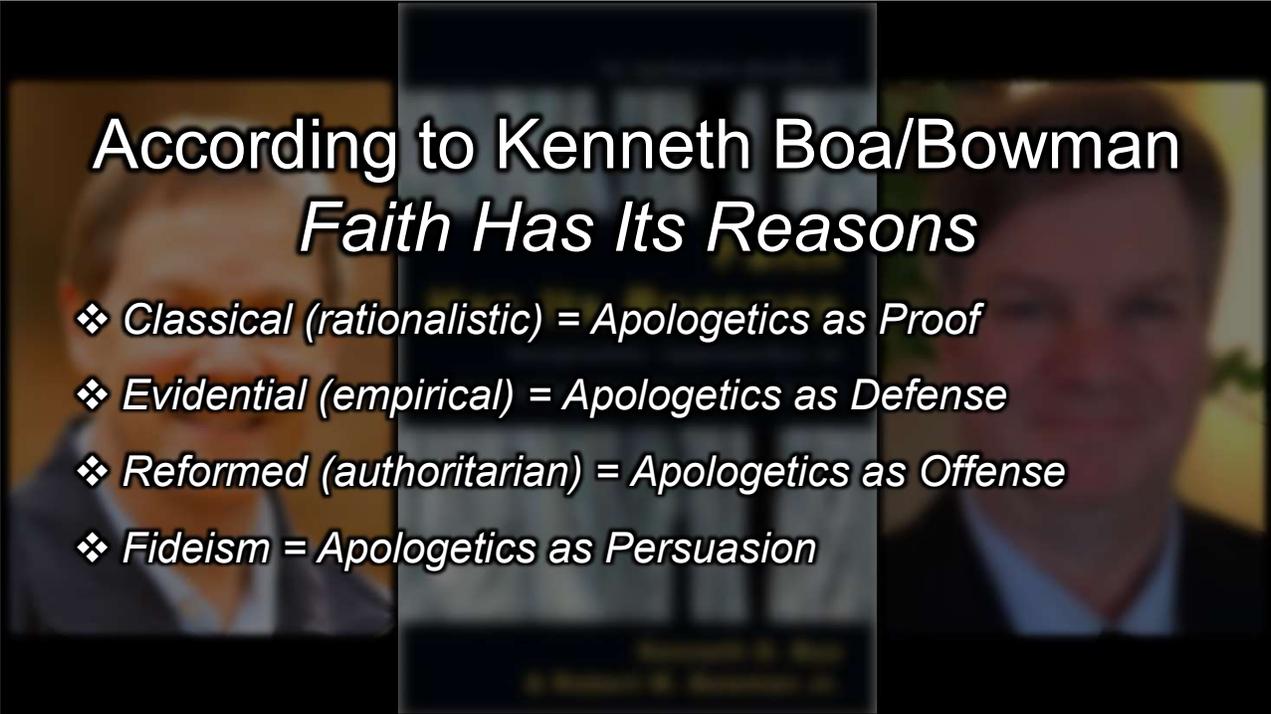


Kenneth D. Boa



Robert M. Bowman





## According to Kenneth Boa/Bowman *Faith Has Its Reasons*

- ❖ *Classical (rationalistic) = Apologetics as Proof*
- ❖ *Evidential (empirical) = Apologetics as Defense*
- ❖ *Reformed (authoritarian) = Apologetics as Offense*
- ❖ *Fideism = Apologetics as Persuasion*