



**The Basis of Schaeffer's Apologetic Handout #3**  
**By Dan Guinn**

**The Questions in the Box**  
**(My observations on how Schaeffer's apologetic relates to the questions of life)**

The Questions	Where did I come from? Why do I think, create, feel? Why am I different than the animal?	Why is there evil in the world? Why do we hurt each other?	Is there a unified answer for life? Where am I going? Is there life after death?
The Topics	Origin, Meaning (Being, Existence)	Morality (Man & Cruelty)	Destiny (Hope for Man)
Reality	The nature of the universe, mankind, and the animal/machine	Ethics	Answer to Life

**Schaeffer and the Historic Christian Perspective**

What has God revealed?	General Revelation	Special Revelation	Special Revelation
What has God done?	God created after His own character	God has given law	God has provided
Historic Christianity	Creation	Fall	Redemption (Restoration, Sanctification, Glorification)
Schaeffer	"The universe and it's forms" "The manishness of man"	Verbalized propositional statements in Scripture "Man's dilemma"	Verbalized propositional statements in Scripture "Christ plus nothing"
Schaeffer's 3 Bows	Man must admit that he is not autonomous	Man must admit that he has true moral guilt, and that he has broken moral absolutes	Man must accept Christ as redeemer, "Christ plus nothing."

"It is not that Christianity is the answer, it is that Christianity is the only answer."  
~ Schaeffer, Lecture: Intellectual Proof & Faith (L'Abri Ideas Library)



### Non-Christian Attempts to answer the questions

<p>Existential Naturalism (Lower Story)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Many Scientist, Atheist &amp; Agnostics</p>	<p>Evolution ----- Aliens</p>	<p>Biological Machine ----- Psychology Sociology Behaviorism</p>	<p>I define my own existence ----- Science will one day triumph!</p>
<p>Existential Mysticism (Upper Story)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Many Mystery Religions, New Age and Eastern Religions</p>	<p>Circle of Life Reincarnation ----- Evolution</p>	<p>Man is basically good ----- Good Animal Noble Savage</p>	<p>Free Your Mind! Arbitrary Experience! ----- Lawlessness Anarchy "Harm none"</p>
<p>Consequences →</p>	<p>Loss of Meaning &amp; Purpose ----- (Separation from Creator and created purpose.)</p>	<p>Loss of Ethics ----- Cannot judge right and wrong; discern sin. Loss of Humanity: mere animal or machine.</p>	<p>Loss of Hope ----- Futile pursuits: nihilism  Loss of Identity: Invalid self worth.</p>
<p>Effects on the Human Conscience →</p>	<p>Diminished level of the value of life.</p>	<p>A mind void of judgment.</p>	<p>Elevation of self worth or a general devaluing of the intellect.</p>
<p>Various Effects on the Human World of Thought →</p>	<p>Arbitrary judgments on human lives (Abortion, Genocide)</p>	<p>Ethical Relativism Religious Pluralism</p>	<p>False optimism "man is the measure of all things" or absolute pessimism "life is meaningless" and disillusionment with world systems</p>

### Schaeffer's Emphasis On The Whole Man

Some perceive that Schaeffer is only about the intellect. He is not, he is reasserting the intellect in an era that has forgotten the balance.

Christian View	Emphasis	Polity	Abuse	Result
Heart-felt Spirituality	Upper Story	Organizational Unity	Love without Truth (Doctrinal Compromise)	Tends toward mysticism (belief without content) and anarchy (belief without law)
Mind-felt Spirituality	Lower Story	Doctrinal Unity	Truth without Love (Doctrine Without Love)	Tends toward scholasticism (cold academics) and legalism (impersonal law)
The Whole Person	The Supernatural nature of the universe	Balance of Organizational Unity & Doctrinal	Difficulty discerning the balance	When practiced rightly, properly demonstrated Christ.

### Two Contents, Two Realities

"There are four things which I think are absolutely necessary if we as Christians are going to meet the need of our age and the overwhelming pressure we are increasingly facing. They are two contents and two realities:"

Content	Sound Doctrine	Honest Answers To Honest Questions
Reality	True Spirituality	The Beauty of Human Relationships