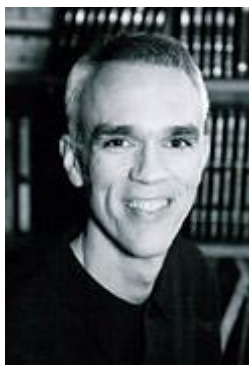


Want to know the basics of the faith?  
Planning to compete in NCFCA Apologetics?  
Overwhelmed by the number of questions?

## **This Workbook can help**

Written by a pastor and apologetics course teacher, this workbook provides:

- Introductory suggestions for new competitors
- Formatting suggestions for using word processors
- Organization suggestions for the card box
- Convenient grouping of 100 questions into 30 categories
- Suggested Scriptures for each question
- Suggested readings in *Introduction to Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem and *Know Why You Believe* by Paul Little
- Website recommendations for many questions
- Website recommendations for illustrations
- Note-taking format helps student collect material during the year before working on a speech
- Note-taking format helps student think through the topic before composing the card.



Chap Bettis is the father of four homeschooled students, teaching elder of New Covenant Christian Fellowship, and author of *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied* ([www.tonguetied.org/apologetics](http://www.tonguetied.org/apologetics)).

*Dear Reader,*

*I love the NCFCA Apologetics category. These questions will help you understand both the great doctrines of our faith and the reasons for our faith. Just to be clear, I am not officially associated with NCFCA. I am a homeschool dad and pastor, prepping local kids to compete in this event and have come up with some materials that I think are helpful.*

*Why did I come up with this workbook? The first year I helped the kids prepare, I was totally overwhelmed. How in the world would we cover these great questions in time to be ready for a tournament? One step toward a solution is now in your hands. I have grouped the questions together in a way that seems to allow the most questions to be covered in a short amount of time. In addition, I have linked the questions with suggested readings and websites.*

*No doubt I have made some mistakes in putting the workbook together. Send me your corrections or suggested improvements at the email below. You can find more information at [www.tonguetied.org/apologetics](http://www.tonguetied.org/apologetics).*

*Having said all this, the NCFCA tournament is not the end but the means to being able to help our own children go deeper in their faith and be prepared to speak to others in an increasingly anti-Christian world. The true “winners” will not be known until many years from now.*

*Thank you Kara, Hayley, Ariel, Kelsey, Kate, Bailey, Matt, Jacob, and Danny for teaching me to teach this course. A special thank you to the others who have taken this course. You have been a pleasure to teach and from which to learn.*

*Your brother under grace,  
Chap Bettis  
[chap@tonguetied.org](mailto:chap@tonguetied.org)*

Scripture says,

*The worker deserves his wages. (1 Timothy 5:18) and*

*Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. (Galatians 6:6)*

Please honor those verses by honoring the copyright of this manual. Any profits (of which there are few) are merely plowed back into the ministry. Believe me, this is a labor of love.

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## Overview and Introduction

The following manual was put together to help students prepare to speak on any of the 100 doctrinal or apologetics questions from the NCFCA category.

What is NCFCA? The National Christian Forensics and Communication Association ([www.ncfca.org/speech](http://www.ncfca.org/speech)) is an organization that facilitates speech and debate competitions for homeschooled students.

Apologetics is a limited preparation event in which the speaker chooses 3 questions (out of a possible 100), selects one of those three, prepares a speech for four minutes and then speaks about that topic for up to six minutes.

As stated by NCFCA, *“The goal of apologetics is to motivate students to study the core issues of their faith and be prepared to articulate a defense of what they believe. Students may come into the event with as much preparation, research, and topic organization as they desire.”*

This manual is meant to be an aid to help the families prepare for the event. The 100 questions (see page 7) can be overwhelming! But this manual is meant to be an aid to make the process more doable. It can be used by a student alone, in a classroom or club setting, or even by those not desiring to compete.

The manual has three sections:

- 1. NCFCA Overview.** In this section, you will find the 100 questions, the rules, FAQ and the sheet the judges will be using. Read this section carefully! Students have been disqualified for not following the rules.
- 2. Preparing and Presenting.** The section contains tips on how to prepare and how to present the material.
- 3. NCFCA Questions Regrouped by Topic.** In this section, you will find the 100 questions rearranged and grouped together in a way that allows the student to create more cards (or at least know more subjects) while studying less material. It groups duplicate questions together. This should allow a student to become conversant in a number of subjects more quickly and make the 100 questions seem less overwhelming.

Beginning students can adequately prepare for competition by mastering about 30 cards. Since some questions are related and the student pulls 3 choices from which he or she is allowed to choose one, the odds are favorable that the student will have a familiar question.

### The Real Goal

However, let's step back a bit and remember the real goal. The NCFCA competition is merely *the means* to help motivate the student to study. The real goal we have is to ground the student in

## **NCFCA 100 Questions As Presented on the Website**

*The following list is the 100 questions for the Apologetics category in the NCFCA layout. Try not to feel overwhelmed!*

### **Category 1: EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF GOD**

#### **Definitions**

1. Explain the meaning and significance of the trinity.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of the omniscience of God.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of the omnipotence of God.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of the omnipresence of God
5. Explain the meaning and significance of the transcendence of God
6. Explain the meaning and significance of the immanence of God.
7. Explain the meaning and significance of the eternity of God.
8. Explain the meaning and significance of the immutability of God.
9. Explain the meaning and significance of the infinite nature of God.
10. Explain the meaning and significance of the holiness of God.
11. Explain the meaning and significance of the righteousness of God.
12. Explain the meaning and significance of the justice of God.
13. Explain the meaning and significance of the sovereignty of God.
14. Explain the meaning and significance of the mercy of God.
15. Explain the meaning and significance of the grace of God.

#### **General Questions**

1. In what ways has God revealed Himself to man?
2. If God is real, why can't people see or touch Him?
3. If God is holy, why did He allow sin in the world?
4. How can God be both merciful and just?
5. How can God be one and yet three (unity versus trinity)?
6. Open theology states that God is constantly changing and growing with His creation. Respond to this Biblically.
7. Open theology states that God is constantly growing and changing with His creation. Respond to this logically and pragmatically.
8. Why is the unchanging nature of God critical to who He is?

#### **Statement Analysis**

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "The existence of God and of a future life is everywhere recognized in Africa." David Livingstone
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "The Old Testament God is a God of hate while the New Testament God is a God of love."
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Gods are fragile things. They may be killed by a whiff of science or a dose of common sense." Chapman Cohen
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him." Voltaire

## Understanding the Concepts

An excellent speech consists of a clear and logical explanation of the topic along with supporting Scriptures and illustrations. The student presents the speech in a winsome, conversational manner with only a minimal glancing at his or her notecards.

So how do you prepare to do this for any of 100 questions?

There are four distinct steps. You need to: 1) Understanding the Concepts 2) Illustrate the Concepts 3) Record these ideas by creating cards and 4) Present them in a winsome manner.

### Tips on Understanding the Concepts

If you are part of a class or club, you will be spending time in class working on the concepts. It is important that you do the reading ahead of time and come ready for discussion. It is also important that you take notes in class and ask questions when you are not sure. We will also be noting the key Scriptures to focus on for each question.

In addition, you should be able to tie in many of the sermons you hear over the next weeks. Many sermons or small group lessons will touch on these topics directly or indirectly. If you become aware, you will hear much theology over the next months. Listen carefully and note the good points, illustrations, and quotations you hear over the next year. Write them down in your notebook even if our class has not covered the subject yet. These notes will “prime the pump” when you want to write a card on this topic.

### Textbooks to Understand the Concepts

- *Systematic Theology* - Wayne Grudem. This will serve as our textbook for the theology questions.
- *Know Why You Believe* - Paul Little. This will serve as our starting textbook for the apologetic questions.

### Other Helpful Books to Understand the Concepts

- *Concise Theology* - J.I. Packer. Packer-packed 2 or 3 page chapters of systematic theology.
- *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* - R.C. Sproul. Similar to *Concise Theology* but written in Sproul’s more philosophical style.
- *More Than a Carpenter* - Josh McDowell. Easy read that covers many apologetics issues.
- *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* - Josh McDowell. Encyclopedia of good articles.
- *Baker’s Encyclopedia of Apologetics* - For the heavy hitters. This is an excellent resource to have for the rest of your life.

## Creating Your Cards

It's one thing to understand the ideas and have great illustrations. It is quite another to have those for 30-60 questions. As my old pastor used to say, "A short pencil is better than a long memory." In other words, writing it down beats trying to remember it. Following are some steps to take to create your cards.

### Step 1 - Create a Rough Draft on Paper

In the next section of the notebook, there is a page for each question. On each page is a section for you to record:

1. Key Scriptures
2. Key ideas about this doctrine or question
3. Key illustrations that you think of, find in research or hear used that will help the listener.
4. Key applications for your life, and the life of others, and why what you're talking about should matter to the listener.

As you begin covering this material you will see that some questions overlap with the others. These questions have been grouped together for you. By understanding the key concepts in each category, you will be able to discuss some of the other questions in the category. This will allow you to research less than the 100 questions but still be prepared. Preparing 100 questions in a year can be an overwhelming task.

### Step 2 - Discussing Your Research with Your Club

As you research different questions, you will bring this research to the class/club. You will share the material that you have learned and also learn from them. You do have the right not to share all the illustrations you find or think of if you do not desire. However, in the spirit of cooperation, you need to share most of what you find.

Likewise, in the spirit of integrity, you must do the work of the class/club. To do little or no outside research and yet benefit from the others is not fair. In my class, I reserve the right to dismiss anyone from class for lack of participation.

### Step 3 - Create Your Card on Microsoft Word

Once you have done your research and taken notes in this manual and discussed it with your classmates, you will want to create your note cards. This is easily done with Microsoft Word.

You can set up Microsoft Word so that your notes will be printed out on 4x6 cards. To do this:

1. Select File from the Main Menu
2. Select Page Set Up
3. Select Paper Size Tab
4. Select Paper Size of Postcard and Orientation of Landscape
5. Select View from the Main Menu and then Print Layout View

You now should see the 4x6 card the way it will come out. You may have to adjust the margins of the card in the document.

## Topic 1: The Existence and Nature of God

For this category, I recommend the beginning student master:

1. The Trinity.
2. The Immutability of God.
3. The Holiness of God.
4. The Sovereignty of God.
5. The Love of God.
6. The Existence of God.

### Suggested Websites Specifically on the Nature of God

- [www.navigators.org/us/resources/items/Thirty%20Days%20of%20Praying%20the%20Names%20and%20Attributes%20of%20God](http://www.navigators.org/us/resources/items/Thirty%20Days%20of%20Praying%20the%20Names%20and%20Attributes%20of%20God) - Names of God. Knowing the names of God is a good way to remember the attributes.
- [preceptaustin.org/attributes\\_of\\_god.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/attributes_of_god.htm) - This site was a little more in depth -- the set up isn't ideal for cutting and pasting, but it had a lot of great notes and quotes
- [http://www.monergism.com/directory/link\\_category/Gods-Attributes/Multimedia/JI-Packer-Lectures-on-God/](http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/Gods-Attributes/Multimedia/JI-Packer-Lectures-on-God/) - mp3 lectures on God
- <http://www.spurgeon.org/spsrmns.htm> - The Sermons of Charles Spurgeon

### Suggested Books Specifically on the Nature of God

- *The Attributes of God* - A.W. Pink . Specific chapters relate to specific characteristics of God. Online at <http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Attributes/attributes.htm> - Specific chapters relate to specific characteristics of God.
- *The Knowledge of the Holy* - by A.W. Tozer. Specific chapters relate to specific characteristics of God. Online at [http://www.heavendwellers.com/hdt\\_knowledge\\_of\\_the\\_holy.htm](http://www.heavendwellers.com/hdt_knowledge_of_the_holy.htm).
- *Knowing God* - J.I. Packer

## **Explain the meaning and significance of the Trinity.**

### **Suggested Readings:**

Grudem, pp. 226-259, especially 226-241, 248, 258

Grudem, pp. 252-256

<http://www.reallifeboston.com/resources/12questions/8.php>

<http://www.theopedia.com/Trinity>

[http://www.ankerberg.org/Articles/\\_PDFArchives/theological-dictionary/TD2W0100.pdf](http://www.ankerberg.org/Articles/_PDFArchives/theological-dictionary/TD2W0100.pdf) -

Geisler notes

[http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/AskPastorJohn/ByTitle/1442\\_What\\_is\\_the\\_doctrine\\_of\\_the\\_Trinity/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/AskPastorJohn/ByTitle/1442_What_is_the_doctrine_of_the_Trinity/)

### **Key Scriptures**

Genesis 1:26, 3:22

Isaiah 63:8-10

Matthew 28:19

Matthew 3:16-17

John 15:26

1 Peter 1:2

### **Key Points**

### **Illustrations**

### **Applications**

## **What is the essential duty of man?**

### **Suggested Readings:**

Grudem, p. 440-442

[http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/sermons/bydate/1989/665\\_The\\_Joyful\\_Duty\\_of\\_Man/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/sermons/bydate/1989/665_The_Joyful_Duty_of_Man/)

[http://www.desiringgod.org/media/pdf/books\\_dwyl/dwyl\\_full.pdf](http://www.desiringgod.org/media/pdf/books_dwyl/dwyl_full.pdf), p.32ff

### **Key Scriptures**

1 Corinthians 10:31

Psalm 34:8

Isaiah 43:7

Matthew 22:37

Romans 4:20

Psalm 50:23

Matthew 5:16

### **Key Points**

### **Illustrations**

### **Applications**

## Topic 5: The Scriptures

### Suggested Resources

For this topic, I suggest beginning students master:

1. How God reveals himself.
2. What inspiration and inerrancy mean.
3. How we got our Bible, paying particular attention to how the NT came to be.
4. The uniqueness of the Bible.
5. And most importantly, Jesus' view of Scripture.

### Suggested Websites

- <http://www.leaderu.com/orgs/probe/docs/bib-docu.html> - Are the Biblical documents reliable? Great overview.
- [http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Seminars/1722\\_Why\\_We\\_Believe\\_the\\_Bible\\_Part\\_1](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Seminars/1722_Why_We_Believe_the_Bible_Part_1) - This page has a whole list of resources that deal with this whole section. Overwhelming but thorough.
- <http://www.theopedia.com/Bible> - Table of contents of all that is on the site.
- <http://www.carm.org/bible.htm> - Another table of contents site
- <http://bible.crosswalk.com/Dictionaries/BakersEvangelicalDictionary/> - Again, great articles on key words like inspiration, etc.
- <http://www.everystudent.com/features/bible.html> - Great site aimed at college students

### Other Suggested Books

- *Know Why You Believe*, Chapters 5, 6, 7
- *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell
- *Baker's Encyclopedia of Apologetics*

## **In what ways has God revealed Himself to man?**

### **Suggested Readings:**

Grudem, footnote p. 50, pp. 121-124, 47-51,  
[http://www.theopedia.com/Revelation\\_of\\_God](http://www.theopedia.com/Revelation_of_God)

### **Key Scriptures**

Psalm 19:1-4

Romans 1:19-20

Romans 2:14-15

Ecclesiastes 3:11

John 1:1-2

John 1:14, 18

Hebrews 1:1-2

Hebrews 4:12-14

Deuteronomy 29:29

### **Key Points**

### **Illustrations**

### **Applications**