

Cornelius Van Til holds that there is no fact with common meaning for believer or unbeliever on any level or in any dimension.

3. Common Ground Between Systems

Carnell, Clark and Van Til all deny that there is any common ground between Xy and non-Xn worldviews considered as systems.

4. Common Ground as Regards Individual Facts

Clark: "An unregenerate man can know some true propositions and can sometimes reason correctly"

Bibliotheca Sacra (Apr 1957), 161

It should be stressed that if there is a true point of contact between God and man (as sketched under point A, above), this makes mankind's knowledge of the external world and other persons possible. In addition, it makes knowledge of the propositions of Scripture possible, on personal and scientific levels, but not on metaphysical levels or in a true metaphysical dimension. A true spiritual understanding is only possible for a regenerate person.

5. The Importance of Establishing Common Ground

If there is not common ground at all between Xns and non-Xns; if the Xn uses one set of categories and the non-Xn another; if there is not one fact, the meaning of which Xn and non-Xn share; then there appears to be no basis or place for discussion, argument or persuasion.

In fact, it would then appear that any kind of apologetic, and surely any kind of fruitful apologetic, would become impossible. In fact, if this were so, then even the words in which we preach the Gospel would be meaningless to the unbeliever!

C. THE SELECTION OF AN APOLOGETIC APPROACH AND METHOD

1. What Apologetic Approaches are There?

There are three approaches in Xn apologetics:

a. Pure Presuppositionalist Approach

This view presupposes the truth of Xy, and opposes and rejects all "proofs" or evidences for Xy. It offers no reason for faith, except that of the witness of the