

# Bahnsen's Basic Training for defending the faith

## Part 1: The myth of neutrality

### Amazon link:

<http://cshayden.blogspot.com/2005/12/bahnsens-basic-training-for-defending.html>.

### What I expect to learn:

- The myth of neutrality
- Bahnsen's training method
- How could I defend my faith by knowing the myth of neutrality

### Quote:

"Christ is the source of all truth and righteousness. He alone possesses the key to wisdom, so we will fail in any endeavor that refuses to acknowledge His Lordship."

### Book Review:

Dr. Greg Bahnsen was an influential Calvinist philosopher, apologist, and debater. He was an ordained minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and a full time Scholar in Residence for the Southern California Center for Christian Studies. He puts to rest this notion that Christians are biased, while others are truly objective. He presented two very basic yet profound statements that run contrary to much of modern Christian apologetics: First, they are not neutral. Second, we should not even try to be neutral.

Bahnsen encourages us to resist the intellectual bullying we will inevitably encounter and to avoid returning bullying. We will not glorify God or win favor with our adversaries if we start bullying, even if our opponents try to bully us into subjection. We must learn genuine humility and refrain from "winning argument" by introducing concepts or using terminology that our opponents do not understand. If they try this tactic on us, we should acknowledge that we are unfamiliar with their concepts or terminology and ask them for clarification. Finally, we should realize that the world, including college professors, will have double standards. Such professors demonstrate that neutrality is impossible as they selectively emphasize or silence ideas according to their personal preferences, beliefs, and priorities.

Among his important points were the following:

- God wants us to be consecrated, holy, and set apart to Him. We cannot do this if we embrace neutrality, which compromises our standing before Him
- Neutrality will rob us of our ability to gain knowledge and wisdom. We must fear the Lord in order to have wisdom. The unbeliever should live in dread of God; it is supremely irrational for an unbeliever to live without fearing God's judgment upon their rebellion and pretended autonomy. If we embrace neutrality, we rob ourselves of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Christ.
- We should reject so-called "wisdom" and "knowledge" that runs contrary to God's Truth. Everyone has a system of presuppositions and a notion about truth called a worldview, and we should evaluate the ideas we hear in terms of their adherence to Scripture.

**What I have learned:**

- The myth of neutrality
- That Christians should not aim for neutrality
- That neutrality will rob us of our ability to gain knowledge

**Integrative Question:**

1. What is the myth of neutrality?
2. What is Bahnsen's defense on this myth?
3. Why should we not aim for neutrality?
4. What is the notion about Christians?
5. What are the two statements given by Bahnsen that run contrary to much of modern Christian apologetics?