SOCRATES I
Why Ask Why?

The Socratic Method
• Socrates did not write anything down
  o Plato
• Socrates did not teach in long monologues
  o Conversations or Dialogues
• Socrates wanted his students to do the search for themselves
• Socrates never stopped looking for truth—remained open-minded

Observing the Socratic Method
• Socrates tests potential answers to big questions
• Engage the heart questions…
  o The nature of piety or holiness
  o What constitutes knowledge

Euthyphro and the Definition of Holiness
• Who is Euthyphro?
• Who is he prosecuting for murder?
• What similar charge would be brought against Socrates?
• What is Socrates trying to get Euthyphro to do through his questioning?
• What does Euthyphro give Socrates instead of an definition?
• “Such solemn steps are ‘only for a man already far advanced in point of wisdom’”
• “‘You are not afraid that you yourself are doing an unholy deed?’”
• “‘If I did not have an accurate knowledge of all that, I should be good for nothing, and Euthyphro would be no different than the general run of men’”

Dissecting Euthyphro
• How are goodness and God connected?
• What is the nature and purpose of worship?
  o Does God respond to our prayers based on some sort of requirement from us?
  o If God is perfect what could we offer Him that would increase His happiness?
Theatetus and the Definition of Truth
• What has happened to Theatetus?
• Who is Theodorus?
• What is Socrates question to Theatetus?
  o What is knowledge?
• Examples vs. Definitions
  • What is the difference between opinion and knowledge?
  • “to perceive is to know”
  • (seeing is believing)

Dissecting Theatetus
• Problems with “to perceive is to know”
  o Grants the perceiver infallible knowledge
  o Reality for some is different for others
  o Leaves no room for knowledge of the intangible

Dissecting the Socratic Method
• Dialogue in order to think one’s way out of a difficult situation
  o Think or Runaway…
  o Defensive posture for protecting one’s own beliefs
• Dealing with difficult questions to one’s own faith
  o Ask yourself the questions before someone else does

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” 1 Peter 3:15

• Dealing with difficult questions to one’s own faith
  o Ask yourself the questions before someone else does
  o Recognize and admit with you don’t know
  o Respect the truth
  o Ask questions of others
  o Ask the right questions