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Christianity on Trial (Book Review)

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Christianity on Trial—by Colin Chapman, Tyndale House, Wheaton, Illinois. \$7.95. Reviewed by E. L. Hebden Taylor, Associate Professor of Sociology.

The author of this interesting book is a Church of England minister working in Cairo, Egypt. It is an important contribution to the field of Christian apologetics even if it is written from an Arminian point of view.

Each of the main sections of the book has an introduction outlining the general approach and defining the question being tackled in that section. Then, possible answers to the question are suggested and each answer is examined in detail. Much of the book consists of quotations from different writers, both Christian and secular humanist. It is in Chapman's use of such quotations that the chief value of his book consists. In effect, it is not only an apology for Christianity, but an exposure of the shallowness, meaninglessness, and futility of secular oriental and western thought today. Perhaps Chapman would have done better to call his book Atheism and Unbelief on Trial since he puts together the views of numerous modern unbelieving philosophers, scientists, art critics, social scientists, playwrights, and novelists. Quoting from these various sources, Chapman shows that none of them can provide any real answers to the ultimate problems of human life.

In Chapman's view, only the living and powerful Word of God can provide truly adequate and coherent answers to such questions as what is ultimate reality, who is man, and what is his nature and destiny? After letting unbelievers speak for themselves on each of the topics with which he deals, he appeals to the Holy Scriptures as his final authority.

Chapman seems to think that the unconverted can be brought to Christ by means of rational discussion and persuasion, rather than by the workings of God's sovereign grace and Holy Spirit. Such an appeal to reason goes back to Bishop Butler who tried to show in The Analogy of Religion that Biblical revelation was a necessary adjunct to natural religion, or, at least, not inconsistent with it. Butler's method of apologetic, like Chapman's assumes that non-Christians share with Christians a common reason and set of presuppositions about the nature of reality, in terms of which the claims

of Christianity can be evaluated. But as Cornelius Van Til has shown in his numerous works, such an apologetic fails to take into account the radical nature of the Fall of man, and the antithesis which exists between the regenerate and the unregenerate human heart and mind.

Ms. Means Myself—by Gladys M. Hunt. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1972. 145 pages, \$1.50 (paperback). Reviewed by Lois J. De Jong, Teaching Assistant in Education.

To see a title like Ms. Means Myself is not surprising. In the mass of writing dealing with equal rights, women's liberation, and femininity, authors claim the key to fulfillment for women. Few writers have stressed woman's relationship to God as the basis for a meaningful life. Gladys Hunt does. God can tell the woman who she is and what she is worth so that she can become self-accepting, acquire true identity, and achieve meaningful productivity.

According to the author, real self-fulfillment is the celebration of the joy of womanhood. This self-fulfillment is possible only for the woman who knows God and seeks His help in coming to terms with her own situation. Once a woman knows she is accepted by God, she is well on the way to self-acceptance and real freedom.

A Christian woman is free to live a Spirit-directed life in which He works out the godly characteristics of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control in her dealings with others. Authentic woman's liberation is evidenced when a woman can use her energy, love, gifts, and mind in a way which brings deep fulfillment not only to herself but also enhances the personhood of others.

Although no indication is given of Gladys Hunt's qualifications for writing on this popular subject, her ideas can be applied to the lives