

**Ratio Christi Documentation**

**Section 100**

**Overview--Mission--Vision**

**Who we are**

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**Section 100**

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**SECTION 100****OVERVIEW--MISSION--VISION****WHO WE ARE****100.00 OVERVIEW****WHAT IS RATIO CHRISTI?**

Ratio Christi (Latin for 'The Reason of Christ') is a non-profit, tax exempt (501c3) organization encouraging and strengthening the faith of Christian students at universities around the world through the use of intellectual investigation and apologetics while sharing Christ's message and love to those that have yet to receive it.

We believe that Christians have failed to address the pressing questions of worldview, science, philosophy, history, and the other academic disciplines. Consequently, the Secular Humanist worldview has overtaken the University and the minds of students. Ratio Christi, a *Student Apologetics Alliance*, places Christian apologetics clubs at secular, liberal, religious, public, and private universities around the world in order to take part in the battle for the mind, and begin to reverse the Humanist trend of thought by providing and equipping students with the answers, or means of getting the answers, to the pressing questions of life that shape our worldview.

These chapters have regular meetings where students and faculty can wrestle with ideas relating to the intellectual credibility of Christianity by encouraging dialogue and stimulating discussion. Scripture commands us not only to develop our heart, but also our minds (Matt 22:37), and Ratio Christi seeks to help university students fulfill this commandment.

**WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF RATIO CHRISTI?**

Simply put - ***A Renaissance of Christian Thinking in the University.*** We want to re-establish a strong and reasoned presence of Christian thinking in academia.

Our goal is to place apologetics clubs at all major universities. Situating Ratio Christi chapters at universities around the world is an important step in reversing the skepticism that permeates most educational institutions. We desire to partner in taking back the mind of the University for Christ. By equipping Christian students we believe many students will not only hold onto a faith that they might otherwise abandon, but they will also begin to stand up for Christianity when it comes under fire in the classroom. Furthermore, we want to train students to be conversational evangelists that can in turn train others to defend and proclaim the Gospel.

Ratio Christi also provides a safe and charitable venue for atheists, agnostics, skeptics, and adherents to any religion to investigate the claims of Christianity, discuss religious beliefs, and seek truth without fearing reprisal. While this is a distinctly Christian organization, any student is able to become a member and learn, debate, and explore the connection of faith and reason.



## HOW DO WE PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH THIS?

### SERVANT DISCIPLESHIP!

- By serving the academy. By serving the body of Christ. By serving the apologetics movement. By serving unbelievers. By serving each other.
- By doing the hard labor of discipleship as it relates to Christians applying their minds to their walk and witness. We desire to be the ground troops in the movement to re-establish Christian thinking as a potent influence in society. This can only be accomplished by serving day in and day out on the campus.

### HOW DOES RATIO CHRISTI WORK?

- Ratio Christi functions as a campus club much in the same way as Cru, InterVarsity, or other campus ministries. We meet on a weekly basis to discuss apologetics and worldview from various angles. It is not lecture oriented, but discussion oriented. In this sense, it is “student-led” as students are the ones engaging ideas and engaging each other. A Chapter Director who is a trained apologist serves to guide Ratio Christi students through weekly discussions.
- In addition to weekly discussion meetings, it will be the goal of each chapter to have annual campus-wide events at the University. These events (lectures, debates, forums, etc) share the gospel with thousands of students on any given campus.

### SO...WHAT’S THE PLAN?

To **establish** Ratio Christi chapters at every major institution across the nation and continue efforts around the world. Including secular, private, and Christian institutions and major universities to technical schools and community colleges.

- Many qualified apologists/thinkers around the country are without a forum to exercise their abilities and skills since apologetics is not a major market for employment. However, Ratio Christi offers an appropriately structured environment for these apologists to begin ministerial work within the discipline while affecting and inspiring the lives of students. Ratio Christi is an 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.
- Ratio Christi partners with graduates from various other Christian worldview minded schools such as Biola, SES, HBU, Liberty, Luther Rice, NOBTS and others.

To **coordinate** with other ministries in order to meet the demands of the academy. Essentially, Ratio Christi will help be a catalyst for other ministries to speak to college students.

- Currently Ratio Christi collaborates with many other ministries such as Summit Ministries, CrossExamined, Stand to Reason, Reasons to Believe, Tactical Faith, and more. On our individual campuses we also work



heavily with other campus ministries like InterVarsity, Campus Crusade, Chi Alpha, Baptist Campus Ministries, etc.

- Ratio Christi sees the value in other ministries that do not necessarily focus on apologetics and Christian worldview topics. We see it as vitally important that our members know of and have access to various ministries in order to have a solid worldview that relates to all of reality. [More on this topic here.](#)

To **enhance** the work of Christian thinkers on all worldview topics by providing the **academic stage** to voice ideas.

- Ratio Christi has served as a platform for major Christian thinkers: William Lane Craig, Gary Habermas, Hugh Ross, William Dembski, Norman Geisler, Frank Turek, and many more.
- Ratio Christi has served as a platform for lesser known, but excellent, Christian thinkers.

To provide the necessary **follow-up** to major campus-wide events, thus preventing the “in-one-ear-out-the-other” effect major events can leave behind

## 101.00 DETAILS

### 101.10 THE CHALLENGE

- When confronted with intellectual challenges to Christianity, many Christian college students will abandon their faith.
- Secular thought dominates most educational institutions.
- Christian students are often ridiculed and openly humiliated by fellow students, and faculty, for believing in God, the Bible and Jesus Christ.
- Evangelism has declined as a post-Christian culture dominates and believers do not have answers to important questions.

### 101.20 THE PURPOSE

*BRINGING TOGETHER FAITH & REASON . . .*

*ESTABLISHING THE INTELLECTUAL VOICE OF CHRIST AT THE UNIVERSITY.*

*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, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Pet. 3:15-16*

### 101.30 THE MISSION

Ratio Christi is a global movement that equips university students and faculty to give historical, philosophical, and scientific reasons for following Jesus Christ.



This includes preparing high school students for higher education and an even higher calling.

### 101.40 OUR VISION

Imagine a spontaneous grassroots evangelistic movement advanced by apologetics discipleship, conversational evangelism, and training faithful men and women who will also teach others.

- **Imagine Christian students and faculty who 1) are completely confident in their faith in Christ and 2) can stand up to intellectual attacks and inquiry.** Ratio Christi seeks to strengthen the faith of Christian students and faculty around the world by placing Ratio Christi chapters on 500 university campuses in the first five years.
- **Imagine trained apologists and Christian faculty working together to help students and faculty see the intellectual weaknesses of Secularism, Atheism and religious pluralism.** We will train students and faculty to trust the historical reliability of the Bible, and to know that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can not only change lives, but that it is one of the most well documented historical events in all of history.
- **Imagine every Ratio Christi chapter hosting, on university campuses, lectures and debates** that will challenge the intellectual veracity of secularism and atheism and reach out to those that don't know Christ.
- **Imagine Christian faculty making a strong intellectual case for Christianity in the contexts of their academic disciplines.** We will equip and encourage faculty to integrate a Christian worldview into their scholarly activities. We will encourage students to enter the mission field of the University by pursuing academic careers.
- **Imagine Christian students entering college confident in their ability to defend their faith.** We will equip high school students in the knowledge and skills needed to understand and defend their faith against the challenges presented by competing worldviews. [Ratio Christi College Prep](#)
- **That is what Ratio Christi is all about. It's not just an organization--it's a movement!**

*"In an age in which infidelity abounds, do we observe parents carefully instructing their children in the principles of faith which they profess? Or do they furnish their children with arguments for the defense of that faith? ... When religion is handed down among us by heredity succession, it is not surprising to find youth of sense and spirit beginning to question the truth of the system in which they were brought up. And it is not surprising to see them abandon a position which they are unable to defend." -William Wilberforce*

### 101.50 GOALS/OBJECTIVES

***A Renaissance of Christian Thinking in the University.*** We want to re-establish a strong and reasoned presence of Christian thinking in academia. Our goal is to place apologetics clubs at all major universities.

Ratio Christi wants students to be *"Fully Equipped and Fully Engaged."* We want to help students hold onto their faith and to also begin to stand up for Christianity when it comes under fire on campus. We desire to train students to be conversational evangelists who will in turn train others to defend and proclaim the Gospel.



Ratio Christi also provides a safe and charitable venue for atheists, agnostics, skeptics, and adherents to any religion to investigate the claims of Christianity, discuss religious beliefs, and seek truth without fearing reprisal. While this is a distinctly Christian organization, any student is able to become a member, learn, debate, and explore the connection of faith and reason.

#### **101.55 SPECIFIC GOALS ARE:**

- To initiate a Renaissance of Christian Thinking in the University
- To share the gospel with Christians and non-Christians in an intellectually stimulating environment
- To provide an open forum for non-believers to ask questions and seek answers without feeling awkward and/or the odd-man-out
- To reverse the trend of de-conversions that occur during a student's college career (currently 60-80% of Christian students leave college as non-Christians)
- To demolish the false dichotomy of faith and reason
- To reverse the general trend of secularism within the academy
- To see the University take a more serious look at Christianity as a legitimately intellectual worldview
- To see Christians worship God with their entire being: heart, soul, strength, and mind
- To develop the critical thinking skills of committed Christians so that they approach major issues with a sense of clear reasoning, whether in the professional or personal environment
- To serve other campus ministries in various ways, ranging from partnership to plugging our students in with their groups. By no means do we intend to compete with other ministries doing important work on campus
- To train students how to engage in conversational evangelism
- To train students as servant leaders that are capable of training others who will in turn teach others
- To equip high school students with the understanding and skills necessary to defend their Christian faith.

#### **101.60 STRATEGIES**

TO THESE ENDS, LOCAL CHAPTERS OF RATIO CHRISTI SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES:

- Express the Good News of Jesus Christ through all activities of the Chapter.
- Empower students to grow deeper in the knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ, and enabling them to effectively share that knowledge and love with others by building relationships and promoting Christian discipleship.
- Encourage dialogue and stimulate discussion directed towards answering life's pressing questions
- Engage the entire campus by serving as a catalyst for apologetics related dialogue by sponsoring campus-wide debates, discussions, or lectures that will encourage all students and faculty to interact with Christian thinkers on an objective, intellectual basis.

- Extend offers to provide apologetics training to other campus ministries, local churches, youth groups and Christian junior and senior high schools.
- Empower faculty and students to present a strong intellectual case for Christianity in the context of all academic disciplines.
- Form strategic partnerships among professional apologists, faculty, and students for the purpose of exposing, in university contexts, the weaknesses and fallacies of secularism, atheism, and pluralism
- Work with Christian faculty to incorporate a Christian worldview into all academic disciplines and to rethink academic disciplines from the perspective of a Christian worldview
- Stimulate evangelism and academic excellence through awarding an *Ambassador of Christ Certificate* based on a set of high student standards
- Promote exponential impact by training students to train others who will train still others
- Encourage students to respond to God's call to the mission field of the secular university by serving as professional apologists or as faculty
- <http://ratiochristi.org/resources/legatus-christi>

### 101.70 VALUES

Full discipleship impact will only be possible when the rational, righteousness, and the relational are combined. Explaining truth, living it out, and loving others is a powerful combination.

We see this explained in I Peter 3:15-16 (NASB):

...But sanctify Christ as **Lord** in your hearts, *[righteousness]* always being ready to make a **defense** *[rational]* to everyone who asks you to **give an account** *[rational]* for the hope that is in you, yet with **gentleness and reverence** *[relational]*; and keep a **good conscience** *[righteousness]* so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile **your good behavior in Christ** *[righteousness]* will be put to shame.

This ministry holds to three important values in Christian discipleship:

1. Christians must understand their faith
2. they must live in the world, but not of it
3. they must have compassion and understanding for their neighbor who needs saving faith in Jesus Christ

In other words

1. **Educate/Equip in Apologetics & Worldview**
2. **Engage with Integrity**
3. **Evangelism**



These three values are coordinated and inseparable. The table below shows several other ways to communicate these principals.

<b>Equipped (Apologetics &amp; Worldview)</b>	<b>Engage with Integrity</b>	<b>Evangelism</b>
Rational	Righteousness	Relationships
True	Ethical	Relational
"Always be ready to give an answer"	"Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts"	"Gentleness and Respect"
Word	Example	Picture/Story
Truth	Life	Way
Communication	Conscience	Community
Words	Moral Character	Love
Content of the Gospel	Good Citizen	Friendship Evangelism
Minister to the Mind	Minister to the Moral Character	Minister to the Body/Emotions
Charge: Christians are stupid and irrelevant	Charge: Christians say one thing and do another. Hypocrites.	Charge: Christians are angry, self-justified, stuffy, isolationist
<sup>1</sup> Knowledge: Accurately Informed Mind	<sup>1</sup> Character: Attractive Manner	<sup>1</sup> Wisdom: Artful Method
Son: The Word	Father: Holy One	Spirit: The Comforter
Words	Will	Worth



<b>Equipped (Apologetics &amp; Worldview)</b>	<b>Engage with Integrity</b>	<b>Evangelism</b>
Logos	Ethos	Pathos
<b>Educate/Equip</b>	<b>Engage</b>	<b>Evangelize</b>
<b>3e Impact</b>		

<sup>1</sup>This wording of explaining these three values is from Greg Koukl and Stand to Reason as part of their "[Ambassadors Creed](#)."

The book, *Relational Apologetics: Defending the Christian Faith with Holiness, Respect, and Truth* by Michael Sherrard ([Kindle Version here](#)), provides a very good explanation of how these three values work in concert. Another example from the Bible is Paul's charge in Romans 12:2:

Do not be conformed to this world [righteousness], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind [rational], that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [relational evangelism].

Explaining truth, living it out, and loving others is a powerful combination that will enable you to impact those around you. We call this combination of three values **Apologetics Discipleship**. While there is more to Christian discipleship, without these aspects individuals and churches are missing key components of Christ's call. They must all work together in concert for fully effective outreach to unbelievers. If one is lacking, the others will not operate as they should. Without careful thinking and an accurate objectively true message, non-believers will have what they think are grounds for rejection of God, the Bible, and the Resurrection. Without moral integrity, the charge of being hypocrites gives people an emotional smoke screen to reject the message. Without honest interest in their lives, your neighbors will have no personal desire to hear the message regardless of its truth.

This does not mean to keep these values "in balance" with 33% of each. Jesus is our example. He was *full of grace and truth*." There is no need to neglect one to have the other. And neither are any of these three values "responsible" for individuals placing their faith into Christ. No one can be reasoned into heaven. No one can be impressed into heaven. And no one can be loved into heaven. But each of them is a tool the Holy Spirit uses to eliminate excuses, plant seeds, and bring the will to the foot of the Cross. So, the task before us is to: *Get Educated, Get Engaged, and Go Evangelize*.

Another important value of Ratio Christi is teaching students to be leaders. This must include a method that incorporates the previous listed values and lean on the leadership model of Christ. The underlying method of Ratio Christi is:

**(4) Servant leadership****(5) Discipleship**

Jesus did not lead by domination, but by serving. He washed his disciples feet. He gave his life for others. Ratio Christi endeavors to serve the University, the church, and the apologetics movement. We are not here to compete with other ministries, but to enhance them. We see ourselves as a success if we help other ministries on campus thrive.

Furthermore, Ratio Christi is trying to bring apologetics into the realm of discipleship. The recent history of the apologetics movement has been more event focused, probably out of necessity due to the fact that there have been so few apologists. However, as more and more apologists are being trained there is opportunity and need to add "on the ground" mentoring into apologetics ministry. One-on-one and small group apologetics discipleship will be key in transforming the University culture.

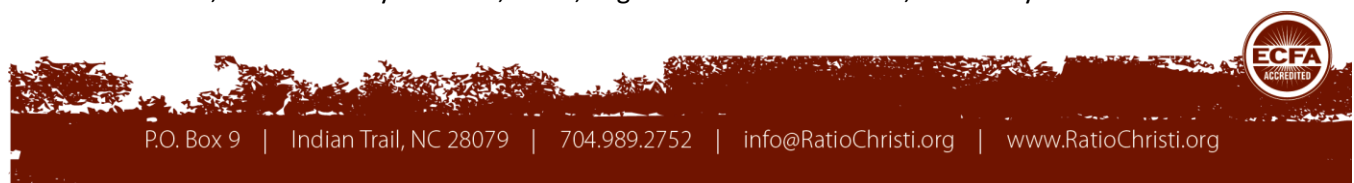
Connecting the concepts of discipleship and being a servant is the biblical concept of *doulos*. Jesus plays on the concept of servant to image his own mission (Mark 10:45 ; Luke 22:27). The epistolary literature focuses on the figurative usage of slave. These books frequently use the primary term for slave, *doulos* [dou'lo"], as a metaphor of being a servant to God (Rom 1:1 ; Php 1:1 ; 2 Tim 2:24 ; Titus 1:1 ; James 1:1 ; 1 Peter 2:16 ; 2 Peter 1:1), to fellow believers (2 Cor 4:5), and even to sin (Rom 6:20). This is a most striking metaphor because a Greek person linked personal dignity and freedom together. Freedom was power and something about which to be proud. The use of *doulos* [dou'lo"] to image relationship to God and fellow believers sent a message of commitment and abandonment of autonomy (1 Cor 7:22 ; Eph 6:6 ; Col4:12). Similarly, instead of teaching people that God just wants to make our lives better, Ratio Christi is trying to teach about the issues of self-denial and servant leadership (being a *doulos*).

**See other Ratio Christi Values in separate document.**

**102.00 HISTORY**

More information about the history of Ratio Christi can be obtained at <http://ratiochristi.org/about-us/history>

Ratio Christi began at Appalachian State University as an informal student led group in the spring of 2008. In the process of launching another club at the UNC Charlotte campus, it came under the auspices of Southern Evangelical Seminary (SES). By July of 2008, the group became known as Ratio Christi. By the Fall of 2009, Ratio Christi had chapters at Appalachian State, UNC Charlotte, NC State, Ohio State, and Texas A&M. In the Spring of 2010 Ratio Christi organized its first international chapter in South Africa at North-West University. In February 2011, SES graciously launched Ratio Christi as independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with its own Board of Directors and President. Ratio Christi maintains close ties with SES as well as other educational institutions and apologetic ministries including--Biola University, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Luther Rice Seminary, Liberty University, Houston Baptist University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Reason to Believe, Reasonable Faith, The Discovery Institute, RZIM, Logos Research Associates, and many others.



Within the first 90 days of being an independent organization, Ratio Christi nearly tripled the number of chapters. On August 15, 2011, the Ratio Christi Board of Directors approved a plan to expand Ratio Christi by developing a "supported missionary model" to provide opportunities for hundreds of trained apologists to become full-time missionaries on university campuses. In Spring 2013, Ratio Christi International was launched to facilitate interest in the campus apologetics movement in many countries around the world. In Summer 2013, Ratio Christi established the RC College Prep program to train high school students in Christian apologetics through placement of clubs in high schools, churches and communities under the guidance of mentors who have been trained by Ratio Christi in apologetics instruction to older youth. As of December 2014, Ratio Christi has approximately 150 college chapters in various stages of development both in the United States and abroad.

More information about the history of Ratio Christi can be obtained at <http://ratiochristi.org/about-us/history>

### **103.00 ORGANIZATION**

The management and direction of Ratio Christi is administered by a Board of Directors through the President (and CEO) of the non-profit corporation. A Governance Policy adopted by the Board of Directors gives authority and limits to the day-to-day operations of the CEO and administration.

### **110.00 Ratio Christi Statement of Faith**

The latest version of the Ratio Christi Statement of Faith can be found here <http://ratiochristi.org/about-us/beliefs> in its entirety and is considered a part of the Ratio Christi Manuals, Handbooks, and other Documentation.