

APOLOGETICS student

What is Apologetics? JDG 9/12/21

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

What do you think of when you hear the word *apologetics*?

apology *n* - a _____ of an offense or error; a _____ or writing in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine

✠ 1 PETER 3:15 (ESV) ✠

BUT IN YOUR HEARTS HONOR CHRIST THE LORD AS HOLY, ALWAYS BEING PREPARED TO *MAKE A DEFENSE* TO ANYONE WHO ASKS YOU FOR *A REASON FOR* THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU; YET DO IT WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT.

What are we commended to DO?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

What does this MEAN?

It means that as disciples of Christ we are to always have ready reasons for what we believe and to be ready to talk about them with anyone who asks. This presupposes ongoing instruction and study in the faith that we hold (see Matthew 28:19–20). It does not mean getting defensive or into fights. But that we speak the truth in love (see Ephesians 4:11–15) as those who represent Christ to the world—in every place and area of life.

apologetics also means _____

We are to know ... _____ we believe and _____ we believe it!

A REASON FOR

reason *n* - a _____, _____, or _____ ;
the power of the mind to _____, _____, and
_____ judgements by a process of logic

In giving a reason for what we believe, how do we understand the use of human reason in view of Scripture and faith?

Because Scripture is written in human language, the use of reason is necessary in reading and understanding what it says, especially in such matters of context, grammar, and logic. **Thus human reason must be used within appropriate limits as a servant only of the text.** It is not to be used to question or deny its truthfulness. To understand properly the meaning of Scripture, the guidance of the Holy Spirit is essential.

✠ 1 CORINTHIANS 2:14 (ESV) ✠
THE NATURAL PERSON DOES NOT ACCEPT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD, FOR THEY ARE FOLLY TO HIM, AND HE IS NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED.

Therefore, contrary to the "natural man", it is not by human reason that we believe in, fear, love, and trust in God above all things. **It is by faith alone as God's gift and work of the Holy Spirit** that we discern and believe the spiritual things of God (see Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:17; John 14:26, 16:13).

- Ephesians 2:8
- Romans 10:17
- John 14:26
- John 16:13

Therefore ...

✠ COLOSSIANS 2:8 (ESV) ✠
SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE TAKES YOU CAPTIVE BY PHILOSOPHY AND EMPTY DECEIT, ACCORDING TO HUMAN TRADITION, ACCORDING TO THE ELEMENTAL SPIRITS OF THE WORLD, AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST.

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DEFEND WITHOUT BEING DEFENSIVE

People are easily offended today. Our culture has digressed into a most adolescent demeanor in all areas of public debate, especially on topics of God and religion. Many shout down any opposing views, purposely giving no opportunity for civilized debate, especially in our educational institutions that are to be the epitome of the free exchange of ideas. Nevertheless, we ourselves are not to engage in such tactics, and where people are willing to listen there is no need for us to get defensive. The TRUTH is on our side. LIES are not defensible. We need only to speak the truth and let God work His purpose for which He sent it.

✝ 2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5 (ESV) ✝

FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT OF THE FLESH BUT HAVE DIVINE POWER TO DESTROY STRONGHOLDS. WE DESTROY ARGUMENTS AND EVERY LOFTY OPINION RAISED AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND TAKE EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE TO OBEY CHRIST.

What objections have you heard from people in rejecting Christianity?

The Bible is full of contradictions.

The Bible is against science.

Christians are hateful and intolerant.

All religions are generally the same.

Argue without being argumentative.

argue v - to give _____ for or against; to _____ by

giving reasons: to give _____ of

- 2 Timothy 2:24-25

As ambassadors of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:20) our engagement in apologetics with others ought to look more like diplomacy than combat. Therefore we should ...

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Invite answers. Invite thinking.

Can I get your opinion on something?

What do you think about this?

Why do you think that is?

What reasons are guiding your thoughts on this?

What do you mean by that?

How did you come to that conclusion?

Speak the truth in love.

✠ EPHESIANS 4:14-15 (ESV) ✠

... THAT WE MAY NO LONGER BE CHILDREN, TOSSED TO AND FRO BY THE WAVES AND CARRIED ABOUT BY EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, BY HUMAN CUNNING, BY CRAFTINESS IN DECEITFUL SCHEMES. RATHER, **SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE**, WE ARE TO GROW UP IN EVERY WAY INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD, INTO CHRIST.

Listen ✠ to _____ . Study ✠ to _____ . Learn ✠ to _____ . Live ✠ to _____ . Speak ✠ to _____ .

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?
