

INTRO TO APOLOGETICS

"Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 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, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame." – 1 Peter 3:14–16

DEFINITIONS

APOLOGETICS

Secular: Systematic argumentative discourse in defense (as of a doctrine).

Biblical: Apologetics attempts to render the Christian faith persuasive to the contemporary individual. (see Matt. 22:37)

APOLOGETICS IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL

- Apologetics is where evidence and faith meet.
- Apologetics forces each person to answer the question: "What do I believe?"
- Apologetics answers the question: "How do I know what I believe is true?"
- Apologetics answers the question: "What evidence do you have to support your faith?"
- Apologetics answers the question: "Why is faith required?"

BASIC APPROACHES TO APOLOGETICS

- Internal Apologetics (What the Bible says about Christianity)
- External Apologetics (External evidence that supports Christianity)
- Natural Apologetics (How the cosmos points to God)
- Historical Apologetics (How history supports Christianity)
- Moral Apologetics (How the existence of morality supports Christianity)
- Prudential Apologetics (Is rejecting God prudent in light of eternal judgement?)

WARNING! APOLOGETICS IS NOT EVANGELISM!

- Apologetics lacks Divine power
- Apologetics cannot stimulate faith in Jesus Christ
- Apologetics cannot provide complete proof of God's existence
- Apologetics only defends man's hope, not God's position
- Apologetics REQUIRES grace, humility, understanding, and gentleness

THE GOSPEL IS PRIMARY

- The Gospel is the power unto salvation
- Jesus commanded believers to share the Gospel
- Faith, not rational assent, is required for salvation
- The Gospel is offensive in nature, apologetics is defensive
- Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit, not man's arguments

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO LEARN?

- Internal Apologetics – It is important to know what the Bible claims about itself.
- External Apologetics – It is good to gain knowledge of the evidence for Christianity.
- Natural Apologetics – It is important to understand how the cosmos glorifies God.
- Historical Apologetics – All of history points to Jesus Christ.
- Moral Apologetics – Learn to answer the question, "Where did morality come from?"
- Prudential Apologetics – Grapple with an understanding of Pascal's Wager.

"THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD,
AND THE SKY ABOVE PROCLAIMS HIS
HANDIWORK." – PSALM 19:1