

Apologetics – 03.24.20

Welcome – wait for people to join.

Apologetics is Greek for a 'reasoned' or 'legal' defense. Used 9 times in the NT. The goal of Christian apologetics must always be the quickest route to the Gospel.

Worldviews - Modernism v. postmodern (reason v. relationship)

- To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. – *1 Cor. 9:22*
- 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**, - *1 Peter 3:15*

Strengthens believers thru 1) knowing what they believe & 2) facing the hard times.

What happens when you get to college? Your faith will be challenged... are you ready? It's not about winning an argument, but about showing them Jesus.

Types of apologetics:

- 1) *Evidential* – see the facts... the world around us, archeological evidence, science, etc.
- 2) *Historical* – see the references by non-Biblical and Biblical sources alike.
- 3) *Presuppositional* – assumes God's existence & uses the creation to turn people to their creator.
- 4) *Classical* – uses a process, without presuppositions, to take someone from nothing to belief.

They did it in the Bible!

- And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." – *Acts 17:2-3*

We MUST be on mission and apologetics makes it possible.

- Ever worried about what to say? Knowing the answers will bring confidence!
- Don't want to come off argumentative? (red from 1 Peter 3:15)

Apologetics has its limits. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. You can show THAT Jesus is the way, but only the Holy Spirit can bring them to faith IN Jesus.

Apologetics – proof that Jesus is the way, comes before faith in Jesus. If someone believes without evidence, that faith will fail. However, apologetics must have the goal of getting to the Gospel ASAP.

WE HAVE TO LIVE IT! That only happens if we believe it. Nietzsche said we have no joy. He was right. Paul said, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." (1 Cor. 15:32) We have no fear because we have ETERNITY! Um... yay?!?!?!?

Apologetics can be positive (why Christianity is true) or negative (tear down objections). Both can be used, but must be relational. Negative has to be careful, because...

WE MUST BE HUMBLE! An apologetic attack is not Gospel centered, but me centered. Notice beginning and end of 1 Peter 3:15!