

EVANGELICAL APOLOGETICS

The term *apologetics* comes from the Greek word *apologia* which means _____ or _____.

*“Reverence Christ as Lord in your hearts.
Should anyone ask you the reason for this hope of yours,
be ever ready to reply, but speak gently and respectfully.”*
- 1 Peter 3:15

Scripture Breakdown:

1. Apologetics is usually done when _____
2. What other elements in the life of a Christian will lead up to apologetics?
_____, _____, _____
3. In order to be “ready to reply”, Christians need to _____
and know their _____.
4. What inner attitudes are essential for good apologetics?
_____, _____.
5. What might a non-Christian conclude if his/her sincere questions are not answered?

Motivations

Bad motives for apologetics: _____

Good motives for apologetics: _____

A good apologist doesn't argue in order to _____, but to _____.

Philosophical apologetics

Does God Exist?
Creation vs. Evolution
Problem of Evil/suffering
Immortality of the Human Soul
Aren't all religions the same?

Christian apologetics

Uniqueness of Christianity
Evidence for Christianity
(Lord/Lunatic/Liar, Miracles,
Reliability of the Scriptures)
Isn't Jesus just a good man?
Hell - Why does it exist?

Catholic apologetics

Prayer to the Saints
Purgatory
Scripture alone?
Eucharist - Real Presence
Mary - Mother of God
Immaculate Conception
Assumption
Brothers and sisters of Jesus
Why do you call priests “Father”?
Confession - Why go to a priest?
Papal Infallibility
Scandals in the Church

Answering other religions

Jehovah's Witnesses
Mormons
New Age
Reincarnation
Astrology

EVANGELICAL APOLOGETICS

The term *apologetics* comes from the Greek word *apologia* which means defense or rational explanation.

*“Reverence Christ as Lord in your hearts.
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be ever ready to reply, but speak gently and respectfully.”*

- 1 Peter 3:15

Scripture Breakdown: (How does apologetics differ from catechesis and proclamation?)

1. Apologetics is usually done when questions are asked, objections are raised
2. What other elements in the life of a Christian will lead up to apologetics?
public witness, preparation, struggles with doubts.
3. In order to be “ready to reply”, Christians need to study and know their Faith / Scriptures.
4. What inner attitudes are essential for good apologetics?
gentleness, respect. (Don't treat the person as a project/target/enemy)
5. What might a non-Christian conclude if their sincere questions are not answered?
There is no answer, Christians are stupid/weak, Christianity is baloney, for intellectual lightweights...

Motivations → Make a list on the board of some objections/obstacles to faith & categorize them.

Bad motives for apologetics: show others ignorance, pride, exalt own intelligence/knowledge
desire to win arguments

Good motives for apologetics: love of truth, prevent error from spreading, remove obstacles to faith
love of the person - desiring their greatest good

A good apologist doesn't argue in order to win, but to explain (can win argument & lose war)

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