

A Reasoned Defense: Sharing your Faith (apologetics)

The study of explaining Christianity, offering sound defense against its critics, and to challenge unbelief

(Acts 18:4, Acts 19:8-9, Phil 1:7 & 16, Jude 3, ++...)

- From the outset, apologetics conflicts with absolute unbelief (atheism there is no god/God), other pagan belief systems, and the *many* distortions of Christianity.

Why?

*to glorify God. How does studying apologetics glorify our King Jesus?

*we are commanded: 1 Peter 3:15, Matt 10:18-20, 2 Tim 2:25-26, Col 4:6, Luke 21:14-15, Col 1:27, Heb 6:1, Acts 24:25, Prov 22:21, 1 Peter 1:17)

*apologetics is God-honoring study that prepares us to love our neighbor as we are so commanded.

*knowing the Bible and theology well, in order to understand the biblically-correct walk of an avid Christ follower.

*Cultural Christianity is not Biblical Christianity. Belief in a god is not salvational belief.

Q? Can you find an early example of apologetics in the Bible? New Testament? Old Testament??

Q? Why the different "subsets" of apologetics?- Presuppositional (already believe God exists) or Evidential/Rationalist (developing a theistic context). We must understand the audience-an act of loving our neighbor, placing their needs above ours. Does understanding a non-theist ideology place a believer in danger?

Q? Does God need help defending his call and commands to the world?

Living out Apologetics

1 Peter 1:17, Rom 11:20, 2 Cor 7:1, 1 Peter 2:11, Eph 1:17, 2 Chron 19:7, Phil 2:12, Heb 4:1

Proverbs 9:10- Where do we go from there? The God-fearing life is laid out well in 1 John. A very convicting and plain instruction set given to us.

Q? Can we share and defend the gospel of Jesus if we do not stand out from unbelievers?

Q? Since our God is fully sovereign over all, why do we need to spread His gospel? He elected those who will hear His voice and come to Him before the foundation of the world. Can we get in His way?