

Are You Ready?
Christian Apologetics

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1 Peter 3:15

“...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

Introduction

As women we know the importance of being prepared!

So...Are you ready? Are you ready to defend/explain your faith?

In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter challenges us all to be ready to give an answer!

Definition of Apologetics

- Christian apologetics is about understanding what we believe—and why it stands
- 1 Peter 3:15—Foundation for Christian Apologetics
- It begins with Christ
 - It requires preparation
 - It is having good reasons for what we believe

Biblical Examples

1. Paul at Mars Hill—Acts 17
2. Peter gives us instruction—1 Peter 3:15
3. Jesus answers religious leaders
Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:18-27; John 5:16-18

The Goal of Apologetics

The heart of Apologetics: Pointing People to Jesus Christ—He is the answer!

- John 14:6—Jesus is the Way—Ephesians 2:8-9—Through Christ Alone

Christian Apologetics begins here:

1. Does God exist? Psalm 19:1

- ⇒ **Cause and Effect—Every Effect Has a Cause.** Hebrews 3:4
 - Everything material that exists is what we call an effect
 - It therefore must have a cause
- ⇒ **Intelligent Design—Design Requires a Designer.** Romans 1:20
 - Psalm 19:1—Heavens declare the glory of God
 - Nature acts as a witness to God's existence
- ⇒ **Right and Wrong—Moral Law Points to a Lawgiver.** Romans 2:15
 - If universal moral law exists there must be a moral Lawgiver
 - Without God, right and wrong would just be opinion, shaped by culture
- ⇒ **Religion Exists—Humanity Seeks God.** Acts 17:27
 - Human beings need a relationship with the Being that created them
- ⇒ **Law of Physics—The Universe Operates According to Consistent Laws**
Jeremiah 33:25
 - The natural laws of the universe require a creator, especially the law of inertia

2. Can We Trust the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:16

God's Word stands the test of time, truth, and scrutiny

- ⇒ **Manuscripts**—The Bible is supported by thousands of ancient manuscripts, carefully preserved and remarkable consistent. Psalm 12:6-7
- ⇒ **Archaeology**—Archaeological discoveries continue to confirm the people, places, events recorded in the Bible. Luke 19:40
- ⇒ **Prophecy**—The Bible contains fulfilled prophecies that demonstrate God's perfect knowledge of the future. Isaiah 46:9-10
- ⇒ **Science**—The Bible is scientifically accurate and never contradicts true science
Isaiah 40:22

3. Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead? 1 Corinthians 15:14

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, Christianity is meaningless

- ⇒ **Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.** John 19:30.
- ⇒ **The Tomb was Empty.** Luke 24:2-3
- ⇒ **Eyewitness Testimony.** 1 Corinthians 15:5-6
- ⇒ **Lives Transformed.** Acts 4:33

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Apologetics

- Apologetics alone doesn't change hearts—Only God can change a heart
- Apologetics is about
 - Planting seeds of truth
 - Removing intellectual roadblocks
 - Leading people closer to Christ
 - Praying
 - Letting God do the rest

The Importance of Humility and Love in Defending God's Truth

- Apologetics can be tempting ground for pride
- How to defend truth with humility and love
 - Listen before you respond—People want to be heard, not debated
 - Admit when you don't know something
 - Remember that PEOPLE not arguments, are the priority—the goal is to lead others to Jesus, not just to “win”
- We need to reflect the heart of Jesus—Humility, respect and love

Conclusion: Every believer is called to defend the faith.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

God exists. His Word is true. And Jesus Christ is risen.

And because of those truths, you can be ready—not fearful, not defensive—but confident, gentle, and settled in your heart.

Goal of Apologetics—pointing people to Jesus in humility and love.