

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

THE PURPOSE AND THE PLACE FOR APOLOGETICS



HYPHENONLINE.ORG

S
T
A
R
T
I
N
G

H
Y
P
H
E
N
S

S
T
A
R
T
I
N
G

H
Y
P
H
E
N
S

Apologetics is not:

1. Apologizing for your beliefs for being a Christian
2. Hostile or Offensive

Apologetics falls under the view of Systematic Theology; a thought-out and clear path to understanding why we believe what we believe. If we don't have a good foundation, not only will we be unable to help others, but when we question our own beliefs, we will be unable to help ourselves.

"The unexamined life is not worth living..."
Socrates

Things Christians Question:

1. Creation
2. Salvation
3. Holiness
4. Politics

Things Unbelievers Question:

1. Is God really good and does He really care?
2. Condemnation/Judgement
3. Death/Suicide
4. Spiritual Experience

¹³Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats^[b]; do not be frightened."^[c] ¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

I Peter 3: 13-17



Our humanity is built on reason and understanding. We are rational creatures and even when dealing with matters of faith, reason still dictates the reason that we have faith. We may not understand the situation, but we have understanding that God is working for us as believers.

I will never expect you to blindly believe everything that you are told. It is important that we constantly examine the Word of God and properly build a foundation before fully accepting and believing what is taught and what is preached. It is important that we put science and religion side by side to find where these things crossover and think critically about how they coexist.

The World Needs Apologetics:

1. Unbelievers need to know that Christianity has credible truth claims.
2. Christianity has Archeological and Historical credibility.
3. Christianity has a rational basis and a Jewish heritage.

The task of apologetics is personal understanding and evangelism using reasonable objectives and a passionate appeal to reach believers and unbelievers alike.

1. Non-Christians need proof for the existence of God to prepare them for the message of salvation.
2. Christians need proof to help put to rest the doubts that persist in their walk with God.

²² So Paul stood in the midst of the ^[a]Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects. ²³ For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.



²⁴The God who made the world and everything that is in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made by hands; ²⁵nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; ²⁶and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷that they would seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸for in Him we live and move and ^[b]exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His descendants.'

²⁹Therefore, since we are the descendants of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and thought. ³⁰So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent, ³¹because He has set a day on which He will judge ^[e]the world in righteousness ^[e]through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all people ^[e]by raising Him from the dead."

Acts 17:22-31

The greatest tool of apologetics is our testimony and our lifestyle. Even when we do not have the exact answers that someone is searching, the influence of the Holy Ghost in our lives is often a necessary means by which others interact with the transformative love and grace of God. Even when we are unable to convince someone logically of the existence of God, our conduct can provide "illogical" but unequivocal proof of a higher power.

