



Biblical apologetics is being able to give a reasoned, intellectual defense of Christianity. The goal is to remove barriers to belief and confirm that the claims made in the Word of God are true.

KEY THINGS WE WILL SEEK TO ACCOMPLISH

1. Understand what apologetics is and why we should study and learn to be apologists.
2. Understand some of the various methods of Biblical Apologetics and their purposes.
3. Answer some pre-planned tough questions that challenge belief and create doubt among believers and non-believers alike.
4. Seek and search out additional challenging questions, as well as strong answers to defend the faith.
5. Encourage each believer to begin to personally journal the challenges to the faith and the defenses against them.
6. Time permitting, we will discuss some difficult questions that people might have today. We may be able to briefly discuss and answer these questions. If not, we can possibly use them as questions in a future session.

Basic Overview of Apologetics:

1. _____ apologetics should seek to give a _____, _____-based, _____ accurate, and _____ defense to questions or challenges made by critics of the Christian faith in a _____ manner.
2. **Evangelism**: Apologetics helps to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the _____. Apologetics is a great way to remove intellectual _____ that may keep an unbeliever from being _____ to a relationship with Jesus. Remember that we are seeking to win a _____, not an _____.

God _____ us to do it! God tells us to be apologists. In 1 Peter 3:15, we are told to be apologists;

- **1 Peter 3:15** (NKJV) "But _____ the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a _____ to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." The word Defense in this verse comes from the Greek word _____ (which means defense), which means we must be able to defend the teachings of the Word of God, especially those relevant to _____

(soteriology). _____ is the branch of Christian doctrine that deals with _____.

- **Jude 1:3 (NIV)** Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt _____ to write and _____ you to _____ for the _____ that was once for all _____ to God's holy people.
- **2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)** We demolish _____ and every pretension that sets itself up _____ the _____ of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- **Philippians 1:7 (NIV)** It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or _____ and _____ the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

3. **It _____ our _____:** Apologetics helps increase our faith, _____ doubt, deepen our _____ of God's word, and help us boldly proclaim the Gospel to others.
4. **Christian _____:** Today's world is getting progressively more aggressive and hateful towards Christians. Apologetics can help you _____ your decision to _____ your life according to the word of God.

Methods of Apologetics:

There are various methods or types of apologetics used by various Bible apologists.

Various methods of apologetics include 1. _____, 2. _____, 3. _____, 4. _____, and 5. _____ approaches. And there are others, but this gives you a good starting point. There are also apologetic methods that focus heavily on _____, science, geology, and _____ evidence to prove the Bible. There are also types of apologetics that defend one's faith against the beliefs of other _____ or even the doctrines of other _____. Understanding that the _____ is a _____ goes a long way in creating the right type of _____ between you and others.

Classical Method of Apologetics:

Today, we will discuss only one method of apologetics: the _____ method. The classical method is sometimes referred to as the "_____ - _____ Method".

This method involves 1. Proving _____, and 2. Proving _____.

Example of the "**Classical**" **Two-Step Approach**.

Step # 1:

Challenge: 1a. Someone argues that God doesn't exist and that the Big Bang created everything.

Response: Step one (Prove God/Creator exists):

1b. Do you believe in the scientific _____ that nothing _____ everything?

- 1c. Explosions don't create _____ - _____ and _____.
- 1d. Use the analogy of the _____, _____, and _____.
- 1e. Everything has a cause, and God is the cause. The Kalam (Kuh-Lahm) cosmological argument is a tool often used by Apologist Dr. William Lane Craig.

"Everything in the universe has a cause and cannot create itself; there must be an uncaused, first cause that initiated all existence."

In Conclusion: this cause must be timeless, and powerful - the cause is the creator, and that creator is God."

Powerful prayer: The Joe Lewis story about praying in the middle of a debate or discussion.

STEP #2: Convince them that Christianity is true:

- 2a. Proof of a God who created the universe, and everything in it. Makes any other miracle in the Bible seem easily believable. Miracles are now an acceptable phenomenon.
- 2b. Evidence: that Christ existed, performed miracles, claimed to be the only way to God the Father, that Jesus was God, that Jesus died and rose again.
- 2c. In Conclusion: If Jesus made these statements, performed these miracles, and rose from the dead after being crucified. Jesus is God and the Savior of the World, as God's Word says He is.

This is just an example of a possible method of defense. Please remember to use discernment and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in choosing the best method, given the circumstances and the individual you are ministering to.

Tough Questions:

"Why does God allow evil?"

- The Bible says God is holy, sovereign, righteous, loving, merciful, and just. So many will ask us, "If God is good, righteous, loving, and holy, why does he allow _____?"
- First of all, God is _____ and does not answer to us or our unique moral code or opinions.
- We must also remember that God is our _____; we are not _____ judge.
- Next, we must remember that God's ways are _____ our ways; He is all-knowing, so He knows the best way to do things. Far more than we could ever even imagine.
- God could have made us _____ without free _____. Incapable of a real, meaningful relationship with Him, others, and even ourselves.
- He could make us always choose to do the right thing. He could _____ us to _____ Him and others. But that would be _____ and _____.

- The very word evil implies that evil exists, and the opposite of evil exists. It requires a law or _____ of good and evil to make the judgment as to what is good and evil. And law requires a _____. God is the lawmaker.
- Remember, God made Adam and Eve, _____ and _____. But they had the free will to choose between good and evil.
- God could _____ and positively _____ all bad _____. But that would really make free will as _____ as being a preprogrammed _____.
- Another option is that God could just _____ all _____ who do evil. The problem with that is He would have to remove _____ of _____.
- It would also eliminate the _____ and sense of _____, and _____ love that one develops as they _____ choose to be _____ more and more into the _____ of Jesus Christ.

Get ready for more great answers to tough questions next month!