



## Part 5: Humble Apologetics

Always be ready to give a defense (*apologia*) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. However, do this with gentleness and respect.  
~ The Apostle Peter

### INTRODUCTION – Lessons from Last Week

Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.  
~ Acts 17:23 (NASB)

### DINE IN – Making a Defence without Causing an Offence

*Apologia* = to present the case for the defence in court

The value of apologetics...

- 1) Deepens your faith.
- 2) Clears a path for the faith of others.

James 2:19

#### 1 Peter 3:15-16

- We can witness when we are going through hard times in ways we never can when life is easy. When you suffer, look for the opportunities given, not lost.
- Rational and persuasive arguments are in view as the defence we are called to make.
- In context, the emphasis is on the character of the believer being most influential on non-Christians, not his or her arguments for faith.
- We want to win friends, not arguments.

Jude 3; Titus 1:9

The apologetics of Jesus...

Matthew 9:2-7; 11:2-6; John 14:11; 20:27

The apologetics of Peter...

Acts 2:22-32; 1 Peter 3:15-16

The apologetics of John...

John 20:31; 1 John 1

1. Simply tell what you know, what you have experienced.
2. Invite people to join a movement, a fellowship, a family (for many people, belonging precedes believing).
3. Emphasize the positive. Joy is in the mix throughout.
4. Use WE language when possible, especially when speaking negatively about our human need (avoid us-and-them-ness).
5. Explain why Jesus is significant.

The apologetics of Paul...

Acts 17; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 9:19-23; 2 Timothy 2:23-25

### TAKE OUT – Becoming a Self-Feeder

1. Read your Bible regularly and prayerfully.
2. Always have a book clearly visible in each of the places you spend time – bathroom, bedroom, TV room.
3. Carry a book or iPod with you to fill the spaces of your day.
4. Discuss what you're learning with Christian friends.
5. Discuss what you're learning with non-Christian friends.

### CONCLUSION – Faith without Deeds is Dead

James 2:14-26

#### Recommended Books...

- Greg Boyd, *Letters From A Skeptic*
- Greg Koukl, *Relativism: Feet Planted Firmly in Mid-Air*
- Greg Koukl, *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*
- William Lane Craig, *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision*
- James W. Sire, *Little Primer on Humble Apologetics*
- James W. Sire, *Why Good Arguments Often Fail: Making A More Persuasive Case for Christ*
- Philip Yancey, *A Skeptic's Guide To Faith (Previously, Rumours of Another World)*
- Francis J. Beckwith, William Lane Craig, & J.P. Moreland, *To Everyone An Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview*

#### Recommended Podcasts...

- *Stand To Reason*, with Greg Koukl
- *Unbelievable*, with Justin Brierley

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### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

#### Warming Up...

1. What intimidates you most about being in a conversation where you are challenged about your faith and need to defend your hope in Christ? What excites you most?

#### Look to the Book...

2. Read **Matthew 9:2-7; 11:2-6; John 20:31; Acts 2:22-32**, taking note of how Jesus and others make a defence for truth. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most. Why? B) Sometimes sceptics make a caricature of biblical faith, saying that it is blind belief, a wishing without evidence. In light of these passages, how would you explain what faith is and is not, from a biblical perspective.
3. Read **1 John 1** and review the lessons listed in your notes. Talk about anything that is unclear or that stands out to you as significant. Then take time to incorporate these lessons into a role-play, taking turns presenting your faith to a partner who plays a non-Christian.

#### So What?...

4. Do you feel the call to become more educated in apologetics, whether a lot or a little? If so, what next step are you planning to take? If not, in what other way do you feel God wants to use you more?

The Meeting House | Sunday, June 27 / July 4, 2010 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at [themeetinghouse.ca/teaching](http://themeetinghouse.ca/teaching)