

# Apologetics 101

## A toolbox of terms and definitions

### 1. The Key Questions

- a. What
- b. Who
- c. Why
- d. How

### 2. **What** is Apologetics

Apologetics is

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#### a. Offensive and defensive aspects of apologetics

##### i. Defense

1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

##### ii. Offense

2 Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

### 3. **Who** ought to engage in apologetics?

- a. Only the expert?
  - b. Defending the “hope” that is in you.
  - c. The best strategy in preparing to defend the faith is to \_\_\_\_\_
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### 4. **Why** should I engage in apologetics?

- a. It's commanded (1 Pet 3:15)
- b. The honor of God (Acts 17:16)
- c. To strengthen/bolster your own faith (Col 2:6-8)

### 5. How should I engage in apologetics? (I.E. How do I do this stuff?)

- a. The critical relationship between theology and apologetics. (This cannot be overstated!!!)
- b. A twofold approach based on Proverbs 26:4-5
  - v. 4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.
  - v. 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.
    - i. Answering not according to folly
      1. Who is the fool?

- a. Psalm 14:1 "The fool says in his heart, 'there is no God'"
  - b. Psalm 10:4 "In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, 'There is no God'."
- 2. Avoiding Folly
- 3. Proverbs 1:7
- 4. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- 5. Terms
  - a. Antithesis (Gen 3:15)
  - b. Neutrality (Gen 3:1-6)
  - c. Point of contact
  - d. Image of God
- 6. The impossibility of neutrality (Rom 1:21)
- 7. The sinfulness and deception of neutrality (Gen 3:1-6)
- 8. Answer according to truth!
- 9. Avoiding the "lest you be like him" of Pro 26:4
- ii. Answering according to folly
  - 1. "Lest he be wise in his own eyes."
  - 2. The relationship of apologetics and evangelism.
  - 3. A contradiction?
  - 4. Assuming the truth of unbelief for the sake of argument.
    - a. The truth of christianity is proved by the impossibility of its opposite. (a reductio ad absurdm argument)
    - b. This form of argument is ***indirect***.
- c. Putting Prov. 26:4-5 into practice.
 

Answering the modern secularist

  - i. Not answering according to folly
    - 1. Declare the truth about God
    - 2. Declare the truth about the bible
    - 3. Declare the truth about man
    - 4. Declare the truth about Christ and call them to believe.
  - ii. Answering according to folly
    - 1. The secularist is a materialist. They have a materialist "worldview".
    - 2. Can matter account for: truth, love, morality, logic?

Psalm 115:2–8

2 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" 3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. 5 They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. 6 They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. 7 They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. 8 Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.