

Evidence For Faith

Introduction to Apologetics

- I. Topics
 - A. Introduction to Apologetics
 - B. Uniqueness of the Bible
 - C. Reliability of the New Testament
 - D. Reliability of the Old Testament
 - E. Testimony of Archaeology
 - F. Was the tomb really empty?

- II. The basics of apologetics.
 - A. What is apologetics?
 - 1. Comes from the Greek “apologia” which means “a defense of conduct or procedure”.
 - 2. Definition: Apologetics is a verbal defense of what one has done or a truth which one believes.
 - 3. Apologetics is a **positive** statement for **why** you believe in Christ.
 - 4. Used 8 times in the New Testament. 3 examples:
 - a. Acts 22: 1
 - b. Acts 25: 16
 - c. I Corinthians 9: 3
 - C. Why study apologetics?

I Peter 3: 15: “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an **answer** to everyone who asks you to give a **reason** for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**...”

 - 1. “Good News” will by itself move a person to believe in the truth of the Holy Spirit leads that person.. Acts 16: 14
 - 2.. But a person may ask why you believe and you should be prepared to defend your faith with reason.

- III. There are four basic questions concerning Apologetics.
 - A. Why do people reject Christ? “Intellectual” excuses for unbelief include:
 - 1. **Ignorance**: Matthew 22: 29; Romans 1: 18 - 23 (often self-imposed)
 - 2. **Pride**: John 5: 38-44
 - 3. **Moral Problem**: John 3: 19,20
 - B. Is Christianity a rational faith or a blind faith? How can your heart rejoice in what your mind rejects?
 - 1. Christianity is **FACTual**.

Jesus Christ insists that you use your mind and examine the evidence for faith.
Matthew 22: 37; John 8: 32; II Timothy 1: 12
 - 2. Christianity is **historical** faith.
 - a. It is based on historical evidence
 - 1) Based on first hand, eye witness accounts:
 - 2 Peter 1:16-19
 - Luke 1: 1-3
 - Acts 1: 1-3; 10: 39-42
 - 1 Corinthians 15: 6-8
 - John 20: 30-31
 - 1 Peter 5:1
 - 2) All, except one, were martyred by horrible death. All were persecuted.
 - b. It is NOT based on philosophy.
 - c. Faith requires **evidence** !!!

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- 1) **Historical** evidence weights heavily for Christ.
 - 2) Evidence does not provide 100% certainty.
 - a) There is enough evidence to warrant a 100% commitment to Christ.
 - Make a **reasonable decision** after a **rational reflection** of the facts and evidence of history and God's Holy Word.
 - Would you ride in a car, even though there is not 100% certainty that it will get you where you need to go alive?
 - b) Blaise Pascal said, "There is enough evidence to convince anyone who is not set against it, but there is not enough evidence to force a man into the Kingdom who will not go."
 - 3) This means that I, David Fonda, believe Jesus Christ's death, resurrection, virgin birth, miracles are factual events, not myths. These accounts are based on eye witness accounts from people who new Jesus personally.
3. Christianity is an **objective** faith.
- a. It has an object: **Jesus Christ**.
 - b. It is NOT a **subjective** faith
 - 1) No person is saved by faith.
 - 2) People are saved by grace through faith in **Christ Jesus**.
 - 3) Faith without the truth of Christ's resurrection would be foolishness.
I Corinthians 15: 12-20
4. What is **truth** ?
- a. Truth is that which relates to that is.
 - b. Always open to examination.
Christians demand that world examine the truth of the resurrection.
 - c. Truth is open to non-truth.
 - 1) Where is the falsification?
 - 2) What stands against it?
 - 3) Is there any evidence against it?

IV. With apologetics we Christians can:

- A. **Build** our own faith.
- B. Be **bold** in our faith.
- C. **Help others** to find and build their faith.

V. **Next week we will discuss the uniqueness of the Bible. Why is this book unique from every other book in the world.**