

DEFEND...

//WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

"BUT SANCTIFY THE LORD GOD IN YOUR HEARTS, AND ALWAYS BE READY TO GIVE A DEFENSE TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU A REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU, WITH MEEKNESS AND FEAR"

(1 PETER 3:15)

//THE SITUATION:

It's Friday afternoon, and all the students at the local high school are looking forward to the weekend. When the bell rings, Gary cruises out to the parking lot where he's met by his buddy Alex. Gary has not seen Alex for almost two months. Ever since Gary became a Christian, he has decided to stop hanging out with certain friends ...

ALEX: Gary! Where you been, man! I feel like I haven't seen you in forever.

GARY: What's up Alex? I've been around. I've just been busy.

ALEX: Right, right, I got you. We have got to chill this weekend, bro! There's a pretty crazy party going down at Mike's house tonight!

GARY: Oh yeah? Umm, actually Alex, I ...

ALEX: Come on, man, don't make excuses. This party is going to be off the hook!

GARY: I actually have plans for tonight. In fact, what do you say you skip Mike's party and come to my Friday night youth group?

ALEX: Youth group? What's that all about? Wait, is that at a church?

GARY: Actually, yes. Ever since about two months ago, I've been going ...

ALEX: Wait, wait! Don't tell me you're serious about this Christian thing?

GARY: Uhhh ...

ALEX: Oh no! They got you! Bro, don't you know how stupid the Bible is? It has all kinds of contradictions! I can't believe you're actually dumb enough to believe in God. Don't you know that evolution is a fact? You used to be so cool, man!

GARY: Umm, well the Bible says that God created everything in six days ...

ALEX: That's lame! Why do you believe the Bible? It's so outdated! Besides, there are all sorts of other religions all over the world. What makes you think that you're the only ones who have got it right? Don't you think that's closed minded?

GARY: Umm, well, I ...

//DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR TO YOU?

If this is the case, then don't be discouraged. It's time to learn how to defend your faith! This is where apologetics comes into play.

You ask, "What is apologetics?" Apologetics is giving a defense for your faith. The fact is, everyone in the entire world has faith in one thing or another. The question should be, "Does my faith make sense?"

Apologetics shows that the Christian faith does make sense. It responds to questions like "Does God really exist?" all the way to "Is the Bible a reliable source of truth?" Should we believe that God even exists? And if so, why should we believe that this God is exclusively the God of the Bible? Is the Bible even a trustworthy document? Did Jesus really exist? All these questions are answered with a resounding YES! Apologetics is simply the way that Christians show this.

SHINE

DEFEND...

//WHY APOLOGETICS?

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW WHY THEY BELIEVE WHAT THEY BELIEVE. IF CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE, THEN WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE IT TO THE WORLD, AND WE SHOULD BE STOKED AT THE OPPORTUNITY!

It is a bummer to see the lack of apologetics among Christians. Many Christians may not realize it, but false religions are growing at an unprecedented rate. That is scary, to say the least.

If those who oppose Christianity are willing to do so much for a lie, then how much more should we Christians be willing to do for the truth? Let's see what the Bible has to say about apologetics¹...

- **WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO HAVE AN ANSWER FOR EVERY MAN WHO ASKS WHY WE FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST (SEE 1 PETER 3:15).**
- **"BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD AS A WORKMAN WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, ACCURATELY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH" (2 TIMOTHY 2:15).**
- **CHRISTIANS ARE TO FIGHT FOR THE FAITH (SEE JUDE 3).**
- **IT SERVES TO KILL THE DOUBTS IN THE MIND OF THE NEW CONVERT (SEE 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5).**
- **FALSE TEACHINGS AND IDEAS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED (SEE TITUS 1:9-11).**
- **GOD USES REASON TO ARGUE HIS CASE (SEE ISAIAH 1:18).**
- **BECAUSE WITHOUT EVIDENCE, IT IS UNREASONABLE TO BELIEVE (SEE LUKE 24:39).**

//CHRISTIANITY IS REASONABLE, RATIONAL AND LOGICAL.

And it can be demonstrated! So, defend the faith and be used by God!

DEFEND...

//WHY CHRISTIANITY?

WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE THOUSANDS OF RELIGIONS THAT EXIST ALL OVER THE GLOBE, YOU COULD ASK YOURSELF, "WHY CHRISTIANITY?" AFTER ALL, ONE RELIGION IS JUST AS GOOD AS THE NEXT, RIGHT? MOST RELIGIONS AND CHURCHES TEACH GOOD MORALS. THEY ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITY, AND THEY ARE FULL OF FRIENDLY, HARD-WORKING, DEDICATED PEOPLE. SO WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANITY DIFFERENT FROM ALL THOSE OTHER RELIGIONS?

Simply stated, **Christianity is the truth**, and all other religions are false. While some may think that is a bold statement, it is a statement that can be verified.

Consider this: if two people think they have the correct answer to a mathematical equation, but both have different answers, both cannot be right, agreed? One of them is ultimately wrong, while the other is right.

In the same sense, Christianity teaches that the only way to heaven is through a relationship with Jesus Christ, while other religions may teach alternative ways to get to heaven with no mention of Jesus. They may even teach that there is no heaven at all. Therefore, someone must be right, and the other wrong.

When considering Christianity in comparison to these other religions, we want to seek a simple principle. We want to find the truth! So in order for one to find the truth, they must first know what **truth** really is.

//TRUTH IS: ²

- **NON-CONTRADICTING (YOU CAN'T BE STANDING UP AND SITTING DOWN AT THE SAME TIME, CAN YOU?)**
- **IT'S ABSOLUTE (2+2 ABSOLUTELY EQUALS 4, NOT 5!)**
- **IT'S DISCOVERED (YOU CAN DISCOVER THE TRUTH. IT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN FIND.)**
- **IT'S DESCRIPTIVE (IT TELLS US WHY IT'S TRUE, AND IT GIVES US GOOD, SOLID EVIDENCE.)**
- **IT'S UNDENIABLE (YOU CAN'T DENY THE FACT THAT THE SKY IS BLUE. THE TRUTH IS STARING YOU IN THE FACE!)**
- **IT'S UNCHANGING (SOMETHING THAT IS TRUE WILL ALWAYS BE TRUE, LIKE ONE OUT OF EVERY ONE PERSON WILL DIE.)**

SHINE

- **IT'S PROPOSITIONAL (IT OFFERS, US SOMETHING. IT GIVES US A FUTURE AND A HOPE.)**
- **IT PERFECTLY CORRESPONDS TO REALITY (IT'S REAL. IT'S SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE. EVERYONE CAN SEE THAT IF YOU DROP A PEN, IT WILL FALL TO THE GROUND. THAT'S HOW WE KNOW GRAVITY IS TRUE.)**

Christianity is true because it meets all the criteria we just listed. Other religions fail to meet these criteria, and therefore cannot be considered true. It will be shown briefly in this manual why Christianity is true, and what evidence we have to support that claim.

SHINE

It should be noted that this manual does not give you all the evidence you need. We're really only giving you the tip of the iceberg. We pray that this apologetics resource will be a blessing and a help to you.

¹ These points are adapted from the **Apologetic Evangelism Course Guide**, a text written by Joseph M. Holden.

² Adapted from the **Apologetic Evangelism Course Guide**, a text written by Joseph M. Holden.