

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

- Defense- Apologia (ap-ol-og-ee-ah)
 - To give a defense or an answer as in a court of law. The root means to give a cogent explanation for one's beliefs. The word means to explain the basis upon which and from which one makes his decisions.
- MAIN POINT: APOLOGETICS IS GIVING A DEFENSE FOR THE FAITH.

WHY DO WE NEED TO LEARN APOLOGETICS?

"For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you" 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- We learn apologetics so that in the event we are asked a question about our faith, we might be able to show Christ to them.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" Galatians 6:10

- Opportunities to witness to people can arise through apologetics.

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" Colossians 4:2-6

- In a world where satan has blinded people's eyes to the gospel with science and evolution, apologetics can open the door to the human heart and pave the way for the gospel. There is always a way we can answer, whether in love or in an intellectual answer. God can use both.
- We learn apologetics because even Jesus and the apostles used evidence and reasoning to prove their claims. Jesus used His miracles and fulfilled prophecy in the Old Testament to validate His claims. Apostles also used fulfilled prophecy as well as Christ's resurrection to prove their faith. Paul in Romans chapter 1 wrote trying to show the existence of God through creation and nature. Paul in 1 Corinthians also attests to eyewitnesses to prove Jesus' resurrection. We use arguments, proofs, and reasoning in hopes that God uses it to bring people to Him.
- Example: Pastor John, philosophy girl
- MAIN POINT: WE LEARN APOLOGETICS BECAUSE GOD CAN USE IT.

HOW DO WE USE APOLOGETICS IN EVANGELISM?

- We use apologetics specifically to get to the gospel. Apologetics and answers do not save people. The gospel is what does this.

“So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” Romans 1:15-16

“But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” 1 Corinthians 1:23-24

- The gospel saves people. Not apologetics, not our charisma, not our personality, not our intellect, but the gospel alone.

MAIN POINT: THE ROLE OF APOLOGETICS IN EVANGELISM IS TO POINT PEOPLE TO THE GOSPEL.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.” 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Gospel- εὐαγγέλιον (yoo-ang-ghel-ee-on)

- Means the good news or good message. It denotes the good tidings of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His sacrificial death. This word is a noun.

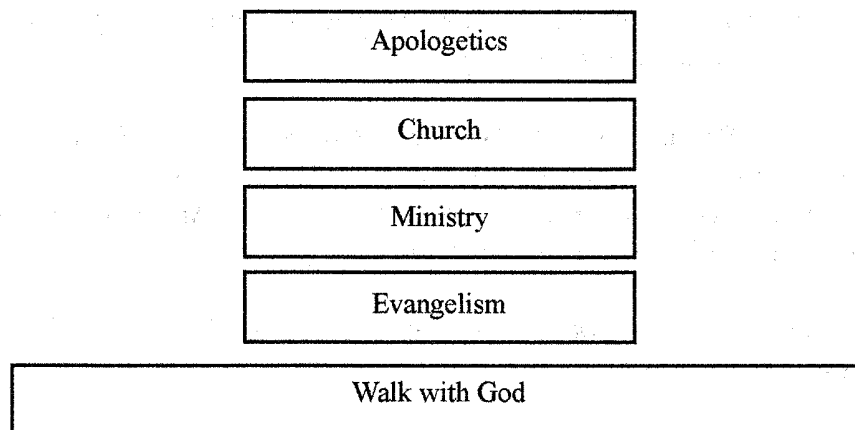
Preach the Gospel- εὐαγγελίζω (yoo-ang-ghel-i-zo)

- to **announce** good news (Evangelize). This word is a verb. It means to bring or announce good tidings.
- According to 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, the gospel has 4 basic points.
 1. That Christ died for our sins.
 2. That He was buried
 3. That He rose again
 4. That He was seen

- The gospel and saving message can also be seen in the **Romans Road**.
- 1. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*
Romans 3:23
- 2. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"*
Romans 6:23
- 3. *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"*
Romans 5:8
- 4. *"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"*
Romans 10:9
- 5. *"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"*
Romans 10:13
- 6. *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*
Romans 5:1
- 7. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit"*
Romans 8:1
- 8. *"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*
Romans 8:38-39

HOW DO WE USE APOLOGETICS IN OUR PERSONAL WALK WITH GOD?

- Apologetics helps us remember what truth is in times of doubt and despair. In the midst of trial, apologetics can serve as a reminder that there is a God and that His love is true.
- Also, God calls us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Learning apologetics helps us to accomplish loving God with our mind. God uses our intellect!
- Our faith is not just based on emotion, its based on truth. Apologetics reminds us what truth is.



- 5 PILLARS OF FAITH: WORD, PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRY, EVANGELISM

EVANGELISM IS MORE THAN GIVING ANSWERS

- Apologetics gives answers, but true evangelism requires more than a verbal response. The gospel of Jesus must be followed by a life that is following God. If you want to be effective in evangelism, love is always the root. Sometimes evangelism looks like doing a favor for someone, sharing a conversation, giving a gift, listening to an idea or opinion, etc.
- Note in 1 Peter 3:15, we must give our answers with meekness and fear.

Meekness- Praetēs (prah-oo-tace)

- Humility, mildness, gentleness, power under control.

Fear- Phobos (Fob-os)

- Respect
- When we give answers about our faith without humility and respect, we just lost our witness.
- We must be humble, respectful, and loving when sharing our faith.

“We can present a defense of the Christian faith without becoming defensive. We can present arguments for Christianity without becoming argumentative.” -William Lane Craig

CONCLUSION: A STRONG FOCUS ON UNITY

- This apologetics class will focus a great deal on building strong relationships with other classmates. Once this class is finished, you should not only be left with new knowledge, but with stronger friendships. The bible places a great deal of attention on fellowship, tight-knit Christian unity, and a strong affection to those in the church. From now on, the first hour of every class session will be lecture, and following will be an activity involving the communication with those around you. Our society robs us of the opportunity of getting to know each other on a deeper level and our younger generations are getting destroyed as a result. My personal goal for us as a class, is for all of us to not only be more knowledgeable, but also for us to function as a military team, and to have the closeness that we share with our closest friends. If the reason why we learn apologetics is to witness to people, then we must learn to be close to people as we learn apologetics.

MAIN POINT: AS WE OBTAIN KNOWLEDGE IN APOLOGETICS, WE MUST ALSO MAKE MORE OF AN EFFORT TO LOVE. FOR IF WE SHOULD NEGLECT OUR NEED TO LOVE, WE LOSE SIGHT OF THE VERY REASON WHY WE LEARNED APOLOGETICS IN THE FIRST PLACE... TO LOVE PEOPLE MORE.

“Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.” 1 Corinthians 8:1