

Why It Matters Apologetics

Focus

Arguing (positive)

Building a positive case for

Christianity

God exists

Christianity is true

Arguing (negative)

Responding to challenges to

Christianity

Goals

- To strengthen the faith of believers
- To remove hurdles of skeptics
- To understand the answers to tough questions about Christianity
- To give good answers to those who ask tough questions about Christianity
- To do this in a loving and wise manner (without being defensive or offensive)

Where Do We Start?

What is the one thing we should focus on?

Bible, Creation, Gender, Marriage

Let's start with why what we believe about all of this matters!

NEXT TIME: Our Apologetic of "Hope"

Why Study Apologetics?

1. It is _____

The immediate context is about suffering

Sanctify Jesus in your heart – focus on Him

AND

Be ready to give a _____ –

Know _____ you believe

Know _____ you believe it

Know _____ to
explain/support/defend it

Apologetics has been practiced since the NT.

2. It is _____

“Ligonier State of Theology”

“The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.”

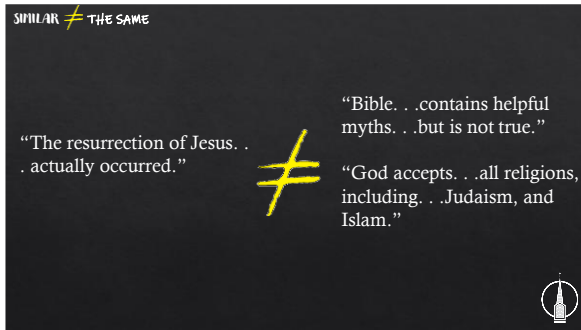
26% of evangelicals who attend church more than 1x a week agreed

“God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.”

58% of evangelicals who attend church more than 1x a week agreed

“Biblical accounts of the physical (bodily) resurrection of Jesus are completely accurate. This event actually occurred.”

99% of evangelicals who attend church more than 1x a week agreed



The Culture We Are Called to Reach Has Changed

Different NT Churches had different Missions

The _____ Church

Birthered @ Pentecost

Distinctly Jewish

Culture and theology is ALWAYS mixed

Kept many traditions

Met @ Solomon's porch

The _____ Church

Planted 5-7 years after Jerusalem church

Primarily Gentile Audience

Called Christians first @ Antioch

The Church was faced with questions they were not prepared to answer, and they were surprised.

Apologetics

A formal argumentation in defense of something.

A theoretical discipline of theology that is concerned with defending or proving or providing rational justification for the truth of Christian doctrines.