



Discipleship Essentials Pathway - Week 13 “Apologetics: Faith on Trial”

What is apologetics?

- Apologetics: the discipline of giving a reason or defense for the Christian faith.

Why apologetics?

- We focus on apologetics because the Bible commands it, the culture demands it, and the Church requires it.

1 Peter 3:13-15 (NIV)

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

- Apologetics is not a suggestion for the intellectual elite, but a command for every believer.
- The predominant worldview today believes in relativism, religious pluralism, and naturalism.

When of apologetics?

- We are called to engage in “apologetics” anytime the truth of the Gospel is compromised or a believer is confused.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV)

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

How of apologetics.

1. Let “Creation” be your first witness.

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Romans 1:20 (NIV)

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

2. Call “Scripture” as your second witness.
 - The Bible is historically accurate, internally consistent, and prophetically undeniable.
3. Surprise the jury by calling “evil and suffering” as your third witness.
4. Call the “Resurrection” of Jesus as your star witness.
5. Call your life as your final witness.
 - Your life is your greatest apologetic.
 - Your life will either silence the skeptics or fuel their skepticism.

1 Peter 2:12-15 (NIV)

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

Apologetics Resources:

