

Apologetic Evangelism



Defending the faith



Sharing the Gospel

What is Apologetics?

1

Greek word - **απολογία** - **Apologia**

2

Legal term meaning DEFENSE

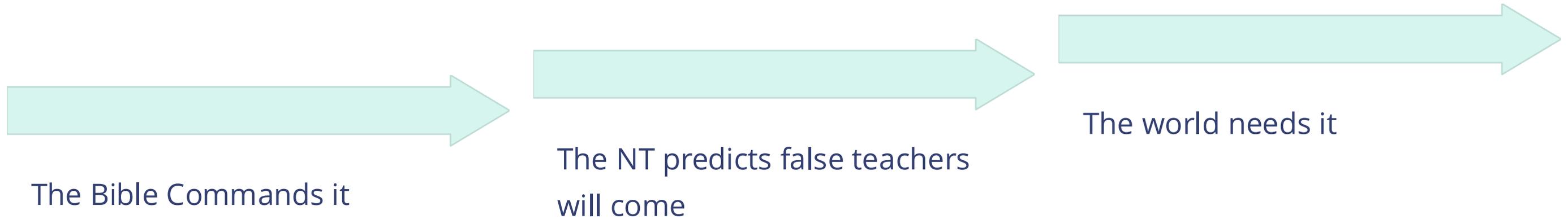
3

Found 17 times in the New Testament

4

Defending the Faith, why I believe what I believe

Why Apologetics?



Why? - The Bible Commands it

1 Peter 3:15

*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;*

Jude 1:3

*Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly** for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

2 Cor 10:5a

***casting down arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,*

Why? - NT Warns of False Teachers

Jesus – Matthew 7:15

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Paul – Throughout his Epistles

We will see later

Peter – 2 Peter 2:1

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

Jude

The entire book

Why? - The World Needs it

God created man in HIS image

He is rational, we should be rational

The "world's" view of Christianity

- Fairytale
- Myth
- Legend
- Crutch

The Gospel may need pre-evangelism

People need to know there is a **rational reason** to believe

Who should do apologetics?

Leaders – Titus 1:9-11

*holding fast the **faithful word** as he has been taught, that he **may be able** , by **sound doctrine** , both to **exhort** and **convict** those who **contradict** .For there are many **insubordinate** , both idle talkers and **deceivers** , especially those of the circumcision, whose **mouths must be stopped** , who **subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not** , for the sake of dishonest gain.*

Who should do apologetics?

Believers – 2 Timothy 2:24-26

*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, **in humility correcting** those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will **grant them repentance**, so that they may **know the truth**, and that they may **come to their senses** and **escape the snare** of the devil, having been **taken captive** by him to do his will.*

When do we do apologetics?

With the right spirit

When we have the right spirit of **love, humility, & patience.**

Never as an emotional response (anger)

In the right setting

Sometimes 1 on 1, sometimes in a group

Use discernment on what is best **each time**

After preparation

After prayer

This is not simply a battle of wits!

This is a spiritual battle of deception, come equipped with the proper tools.

Where do we do apologetics?

Within the Church

Our young people are leaving the church at alarming rates, because they find "rational" explanations for things outside of Christianity.



Once active teens no longer in church



Left because they doubt the Bible is real

⚠️ Doubts and questions start in **4th grade** | Address the issue, or accept the result

Where? – Within the church

Jesus did not require blind faith, He provided evidence

- Jesus' miracles were evidence of His Divine authority (~35 recorded in the Gospels)
- When asked who He was by JTB's disciples, Jesus pointed to His miracles as evidence (Luke 7:20–23; Matt 11:2–19)
- When asked for a sign by the Pharisees, Jesus told them the sign of Jonah (speaking of His resurrection) would be enough (Matt 12:38–42)
- When showing the Scribes who He was, Jesus told the paralyzed man to walk (Matt 9:1–8; Mark 2:1–12; Luke 5:17–26)
- Thomas doubted, he was given evidence (John 20:24–29)
- Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 showed evidence of Jesus resurrection. He did not expect a blind faith

Where? – Within the church

The church can choose to either **deal with questions**, or **look the other way**

If we respond to the need:

- We will see believers **grow and mature**, not walk away
- We will see others **coming to know the Lord**, as they will understand it is not a myth/fairytale

If we don't respond:

- People will continue to **leave the church** when challenged from the outside
- People will continue to **be stolen by cultic groups**
- The world will grow stronger in its open **mockery of Christianity**

Where? – Outside the church

Colossians 4:6

*Let your speech always be with **grace, seasoned with salt**, that you may know how you ought to **answer each one**.*



At home



At work



In school



Anywhere

If believers can have doubts, why should we treat unbelievers doubts any different?

When believers cannot answer hard questions from a Biblical worldview, Christianity seems a weak option

How to do apologetics? Provide **ANSWERS**

A Always give the Gospel first and pray

N Never be offensive

S Search out the real issue

W Walls are to be removed

E Evangelistic techniques are used

R Relationships are important

S Self analysis of our own doubts

End Goal: Demonstrate the Bible is the word of God

- 1 Truth is absolute and knowable
- 2 God exists
- 3 Miracles are possible
- 4 The New Testament is historically reliable
- 5 The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God
- 6 Jesus proved this claim by: 1. Living a sinless miraculous life 2. Fulfilling prophecies 3. Predicting and accomplishing His Resurrection
- 7 Therefore, Jesus is God
- 8 Whatever Jesus teaches is true, because He is God
- 9 Jesus taught the Bible was the Word of God
- 10 The Bible is the Word of God!

What is Evangelism?

Greek word - εὐαγγέλιον – Euangelion

- 41 times in New Testament
- "gospel" found over 100 times

Christianity

- Good News of the resurrected Savior

History

- Proclamation of good news
- A king's son being born | A victorious battle

Sharing the Gospel

The Message

Who is Jesus? What did He do? What did He do for them?

The Challenge

What if they stop you before you get started?

The Question

Is it still "doing evangelism" if you never get to share the good news?

Evangelism Redefined

Evangelism is **every day**, and in **every way** getting someone **closer** to making a **decision** about Jesus.

- It is a continual process
- You may be the only voice, or one voice among many in the process
- Success is not defined by "**getting someone saved**" – but by **being obedient to God**

Apologetics meets Evangelism



This cycle may repeat multiple times in the evangelism process

Three Common Barriers



Intellectual



Emotional



Volitional

Three Common Barriers

Intellectual

Christianity is unacceptable because of:

- Science | Logic | Experience (or lack of)

Objections to Christianity regarding:

- Miracles
- God's Existence
- Trinity
- Biblical Authority and inerrancy

 **The substance of Christianity must be demonstrated as trustworthy to this individual.**

Three Common Barriers

Emotional

They have some emotional barrier/baggage to hearing the truth, or accepting it

Issues with:

- Evil
- Hell
- Hypocrisy in the Church
- Past hurts from the Church



For these people, there are three major things that need to be demonstrated.

Emotional Barriers – Three issues

1

First we must show the failures of those *in the church* do not discredit the *teachings of* the church.

2

Second, we must talk about the nature of evil. Its **definition**, its **source**, and why it is **still present**.

3

Finally, the issue of Hell needs to be addressed. It is not a place God **sends** people, it is a place people **choose** to go. A judge does not **send** anyone to jail, he is simply delivering the sentence that is **earned**.

Three Common Barriers

Volitional

Understanding Volitional Barriers

This barrier relates to the individual's **will** and their **desire** for **personal control**.

The Choice for Control

People willingly choose to reject the gift of salvation, **prioritizing control over their own lives**.

God's Respect for Free Will

God does not force anyone to choose Him; accepting grace is a conscious choice.

Apologetics meets Evangelism

Addressing Barriers

Apologetics aims to deal with the intellectual and emotional barriers.

Limitations

Apologetics cannot remove pride from an individual, but we can continue to love them.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.