

September 7, 2022

## **Introduction to Christian Apologetics and God's Mission**

### **What is Christian apologetics?**

1 Peter 3:15-16 – “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a *defense* to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”

“Apologetics... is the practice of offering an *appeal* and a *defense* for the Christian faith. In other words, apologetics, through word and deed, answers both why a person *can* believe (defense) and why a person *should* believe (appeal)” (Chatraw and Allen, 17).

### **What is the Church's mission and is it the same as the mission of God? Is the end goal the same?**

Psalm 22:27 – “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.”

Isaiah 48:9-11 – “For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.”

Matthew 28:18-20 – “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

Revelation 7:9 – “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”

John Piper – “Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more.”

**What is the goal of Christian apologetics? Does it align with goal of God’s Mission?**

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 – “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you *except Jesus Christ and him crucified*. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

“The cross, a symbol of humility and suffering, should shape the way we do apologetics” (Chatraw and Allen, 29).

**Who should practice Christian apologetics? What tools do you need?**

Tools Needed:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to use wisdom and reason / Where does this come from?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to interact with / Where does this come from?

1 Corinthians 2:11-14 – “For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

**Reflection From The Week:**

Read Article: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/who-might-find-god-in-your-suffering>

**Preparation For Next Week:**

Watch Video: <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/six-parts-of-a-christian-worldview>

**Further Resources:**

Beilby, James K. *Thinking About Christian Apologetics: What It Is And Why We Do It*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.

Chatraw, Joshua D. and Mark D. Allen. *Apologetics At The Cross: An Introduction for Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2018.

Newman, Randy. *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People’s Heart the Way Jesus Did*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2004.