

Question & Response

That You May Believe: A Series on Apologetics Part 8

1 Peter 3:15; Mark 12:29-31

Ryan Cole

Hilltoppers for Christ | Worship Wednesday | 3.27.19

Apologetic Reminders:

- Apologetics are mandated by God.
 - “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.” (*1 Peter 3:15*)
 - We must be ready to give a reason for our faith. We must know why we believe what we believe.
- Apologetics must be applied with gentleness and respect.
 - “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*.” (*1 Peter 3:15*)
 - We must give a defense gently and respectfully.
 - You can not argue someone into heaven.
- The greatest apologetic is to love God and love people.
 - “²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (*Mark 12:29-31*)
 - The greatest witness we have is how we love God and love others.
 - “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (*John 13:35*)
- Our hopes for this series:
 - We hope that this study would strengthen your faith.
 - Many of us struggle with doubts. I hope that this series responded to your doubts well.
 - I have perhaps never been mo
 - We hope that this study would equip you to answer hard questions.
 - We hope that this study would embolden you to share your faith with others.

Submitted Questions:

How do we know the Bible is the word of God?

- *1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16*

How do we respond to hypocrites who twist God’s word to use it in a hateful manner?

When you overhear a group of people talking bad about Christianity, how do you respond? Should you interrupt them, or only respond when told directly?

- It depends on the situation.
- If you're close to them, you can challenge their assumptions.
- Perhaps God has placed you in that situation to be salt and light

I used to not believe God was the author of the Bible because I was like "God didn't write the Bible, humans did." I only believed it when someone I trusted told me. How do I explain Biblical inspiration to someone who thinks the way I used to think?

- The Bible is not dictation.
- Incarnation

Can you maybe talk more about forgiving yourself? The church emphasizes forgiving others and asking forgiveness from God, but I've hardly ever heard it talk about the importance of forgiving yourself, and I think more people need to hear that.

- *Matthew 6:9-15; Mark 12:31*

How can we be sure that our religion is the 100% right one out of the 100s of thousands of other religions?

- First, we need to recognize that there is a difference between religions.
- The number one thing that differentiates the Christian religion with all other religions is this: the resurrection of Jesus.
- If Jesus was really resurrected, He must be followed.

Why didn't God make it where we could physically see him more instead of just see of him? Like where we need to rely on our hearts instead of being able to actually talk to him back and forth?

Okay so God gives us free will, right? But He also already knows what we're gonna choose, right? So if He knows certain people are not going to choose Him, then why would He create them in the first place?

- *1 Timothy 2:4* - God wishes for everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.
- It may not be feasible for God to make someone freely choose something
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1Yhab36Y0I>

What does the Bible say about miraculous spiritual gifts and their use in our world today?

How does the biblical texts apply to today's society?

Why doesn't God interact with us as intentionally as he did with people during biblical times?

- He didn't audibly talk as often as some think.
- He sends His Holy Spirit