

ARMING APOLOGISTS #1: WHY APOLOGETICS?

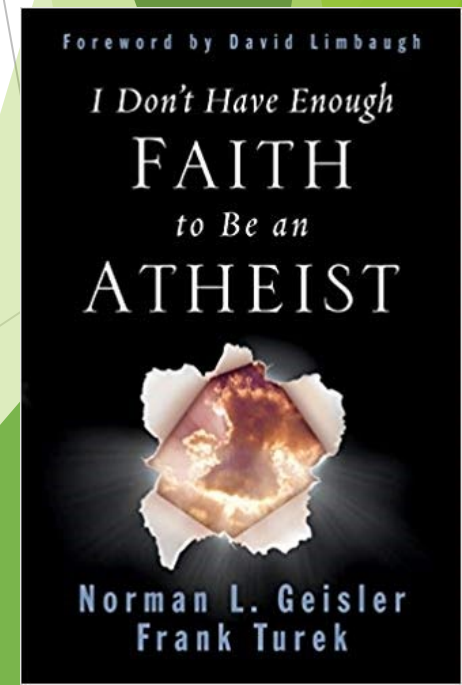
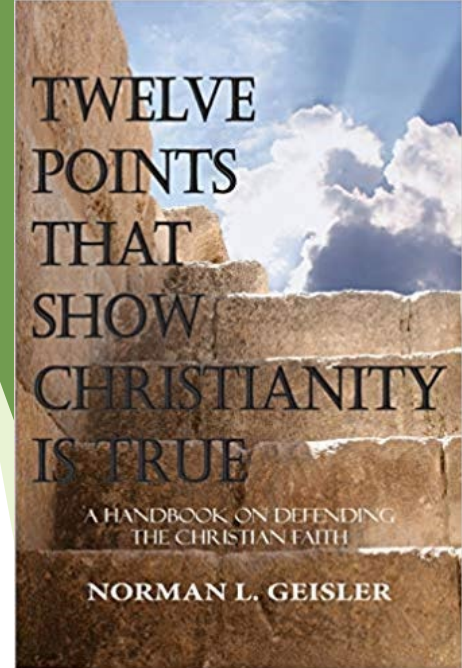
Pastor Richard Alderson
Athol Baptist Church

COURSE OUTLINE

- ▶ Interactive Lecture
 - ▶ Retention & Execution
 - ▶ Concept Based & Cumulatively Bound
- ▶ Course Materials
 - ▶ 3-Ring Binder
 - ▶ Notecards (& Rings)
- ▶ Initial Survey

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ▶ Southern Evangelical Seminary
 - ▶ Dr. Norman Geisler, et al
- ▶ *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*
 - ▶ Dr. Norman Geisler & Dr. Frank Turek
- ▶ *Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True*
 - ▶ Dr. Norman Geisler (& Dr. Douglas Potter)



WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ ἀπολογία (apologia)
 - ▶ Not an Apology
- ▶ Defense of the Historic Christian Faith
 - ▶ Defense - giving a reasoned response
 - ▶ Fundamentals of the Faith

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ Arguments vs Opponents of Christianity
 - ▶ Apologetics
- ▶ Doctrinal Arguments vs Fellow Believers
 - ▶ Theological Debate

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ *Imago Dei* (Divine Image)
 - ▶ Rational Capability
 - ▶ Emotional Capacity
 - ▶ Volitional Culpability

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ Reasoned Response addressing:
 - ▶ Rational - coherent explanations
 - ▶ Emotional - compelling declarations
 - ▶ Volitional - challenging invitations

WHY APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ Bible Commands It:

- ▶ “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” 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;

WHY APOLOGETICS?

having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

▶ 1 Peter 3:13-17 NKJV

WHY APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ Society Demands It:

- ▶ “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said,

WHY APOLOGETICS?

‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.””

▶ Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV

WHY APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ Church Needs It:
- ▶ “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in *My* word, you are *My* disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
- ▶ John 8:31-32 NKJV

DIVINE DIRECTION

▶ “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.”

▶ 1 Peter 3:15 NKJV

WHEN APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ “Do not give what is *holy to the dogs*; nor cast your *pearls before swine*, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”
- ▶ Matthew 7:6 NKJV
- ▶ Prayer vs Pitched Battle

WHERE APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak.

WHERE APOLOGETICS?

- ▶ For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”
- ▶ Matthew 10:16-20 NKJV
- ▶ Calculation vs Contention

ENDING EXHORTATION

- ▶ Witness vs Expert Witness
- ▶ Homework Assignment

QUESTIONS?

- ▶ Three Reasons to do Apologetics?
- ▶ Apologetics Banner Verse?
- ▶ Week 2 - Book Order
 - ▶ 2 for 7
- ▶ Thank you

ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 1: WHY APOLOGETICS

What is apologetics?

- A. Defined Faith _____

- B. Doctrinal Arguments _____

- C. Divine Image _____

As a future Classical Apologist, you will soon learn to reflect God's glory through the use of:

Rational Capability that provides coherent explanations
&
Emotional Capacity to proclaim compelling declarations.

These elements will force an opponent's
Volitional Culpability to ponder these challenging invitations.

Why Apologetics?

A. Bible _____ . 1 Peter 3:13-17

B. Society _____ . Genesis 3:1-5

C. Church _____ . John 8:31-32

Divine Direction states that believers should _____ to give a defense.

1 Peter 3:15

When should a believer give their defense _____

Matthew 7:6

Where should a believer give their defense _____

Matthew 10:16-20

ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 1: WHY APOLOGETICS HOMEWORK

1. Why am I personally invested in apologetics? _____

2. How do I become an expert witness of God's truth? _____

3. What are the fundamentals of the faith? (Specifically, which elements do you assess in your diagnostic evaluation of another's faith claim?) _____

4. Who will be my biggest opponent in my apologetics journey? _____

5. When have I committed to train daily? _____

6. Where am I called to proclaim and defend God's truth? _____

Notecards:

1 – Defend the Faith / 1 Peter 3:13-17 _____

2 – Why Apologetics / 3 reasons (verse references) _____

3 – Witness vs. Expert Witness / _____