

Ready to Answer – A Study on Christian Apologetics

Session 1 – The Basics

What is apologetics? – A defense of the faith

Why Apologetics?¹

1. Apologetics is biblically commanded of us – 1 Peter 3:15

First Peter 3:15 states, “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*.”

2. Apologetics gives us confidence in times of difficulties or doubts – Matthew 13:5-6

When difficult things happen, and our emotions take over, we need to have good, concrete reasons to hold on to our faith—to cling to Jesus instead of turning away from Him.

3. Apologetics enables us to share the case for Christ – 2 Peter 1:16

Studying the common objections people have to Christianity and finding answers to them can go a long way toward preparing us to share the gospel with anyone we may encounter.

4. Jesus did apologetics - John 10:37-38

When Jesus was challenged, He used rational arguments and called attention to evidence like miracles or prophecy to prove His claims. “But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” John 10:38

5. Paul did apologetics - Acts 17:28

In Acts 17, Paul challenged the people in Athens, and while many sneered at Paul, there were also many curious listeners who wanted to hear more.

¹ Joseph M. Holden, Sarah R. Enterline, and Todd Hampson, [A Visual Guide to Biblical Apologetics](#) (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2024), 13.

THE CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY

The case for Christianity can be presented and supported with the following ten premises.

APOLOGETIC TASK		PREMISE	SUPPORT
<i>Philosophical Foundation</i>	1	Truth and knowledge exist.	It is self-defeating to deny this first premise, because essentially the truth is affirmed in its denial.
	2	God exists.	The Law of Causality says everything that has a beginning (such as our universe) needs a cause. This cause we call <i>God</i> .
<i>Theistic Foundation</i>	3	Miracles are possible.	If God exists, then acts of God (miracles) are possible.
	4	The New Testament is historically trustworthy.	Archaeologists and historians have discovered thousands of artifacts, documents, and geographical locations confirming Scripture.
	5	The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.	Jesus claimed to be God (John 8:58; 10:30; 14:9). Others claimed Jesus was God (John 1:1; Colossians 1:15–17; 2:9; Titus 2:13). Jesus was worshipped as God (John 20:28; Hebrews 1:6).
<i>Evidential Foundation</i>			

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| 6 | Jesus' claim to be God was confirmed by:

Living a supernatural life free from sin

Fulfilled prophecy

His physical resurrection from the dead | The resurrection of Christ is the crowning evidence validating His claim to be the Son of God (Luke 24:36–43; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:1–7; John 20; 21). |
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Conclusions

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| 7 | Therefore, Jesus is God. | This is the logical conclusion that follows from premises 1–6 above. |
| 8 | Whatever Jesus teaches is true. | Just as God cannot err or make mistakes, Jesus can only teach the truth. |
| 9 | Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God. | Jesus made clear that the Bible is God's Word and completely true (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; 22:43; John 10:35; 17:17). |
| 10 | Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God. | This conclusion presents a choice for unbelievers to either accept its truth or reject it (John 3:16; Romans 10:9–10). ² |

² Joseph M. Holden, Sarah R. Enterline, and Todd Hampson, [*A Visual Guide to Biblical Apologetics*](#) (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2024), 17.