



AN EIGHT-WEEK SERMON SERIES ON CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

Defending the Faith

Week 1 · Why Defend the Faith?



Lead Pastors Dr. Jonathan & Donna Vorce
Lakewood Family Church | Hudson, FL

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Why Defend the Faith?

MAIN IDEA

Apologetics is not about winning arguments; it is about loving God with hearts **AND** our minds and loving people enough to give clear reasons for the hope we have.

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 3:13–17

Jude 3

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Four Main Points

- I The Biblical Command to Contend for the Faith
- II The Difference Between Defending Truth and Being Defensive
- III Gentleness and Respect as the Required Tone
- IV How a Prepared Mind Strengthens Personal Faith and Family Discipleship

I. The Biblical Command to Contend for the Faith

Jude 3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

I. The Biblical Command to Contend for the Faith

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II. The Difference Between Defending Truth and Being Defensive

DEFENDING TRUTH

Rooted in confidence that the truth is true.

Begins with sanctifying the Lord God in the heart.

Seeks the other person's understanding and good.

BEING DEFENSIVE

Rooted in fear or pride when we feel personally attacked.

Produces heated arguments and closed ears.

Seeks to protect our image or “win” the conversation.

III. Gentleness and Respect as the Required Tone

1 Peter 3:15–16

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

IV. How a Prepared Mind Strengthens Personal Faith and Family Discipleship

Personal Faith

When we study the reasons for our hope, doubts lose their power. A mind that has examined the evidence is less likely to be shaken.

Family Discipleship

Parents and grandparents who can give clear answers become the primary apologetics teachers in the home.

Long-Term Fruit

Families grow in confidence and unity. The next generation sees that Christianity can stand up to scrutiny.

Application

1 Begin praying daily for one specific person in your circle who has questions or doubts about the faith.

2 Commit to listening carefully and respectfully before you speak.

Go Prepared

Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.

Be ready always.

Speak with meekness and fear.

Trust the Spirit of God to use your prepared words for His glory.

“Be ready always to give an answer... with meekness and fear.”



NEXT WEEK

Week 2: Does God Exist?

Romans 1:18–20 · Psalm 19:1–4 · Acts 17:22–31

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