

APOLOGETICS-WHY?

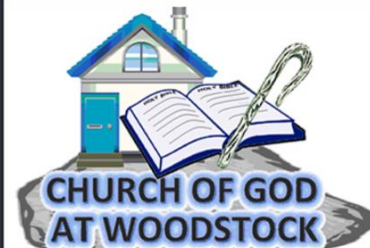
APOLOGETICS WORKSHOPS



**TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES**

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EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD
A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

A record-low 20% of Americans now say the Bible is the literal word of God, down from 24% the last time the question was asked in 2017, and half of what it was at its high points in 1980 and 1984. Meanwhile, **a new high of 29%** say the Bible is a collection of "**fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man.**" This marks the first time significantly more Americans have viewed the Bible as not divinely inspired than as the literal word of God. The largest percentage, 49%, choose the middle alternative, roughly in line with where it has been in previous years.

Gallup poll, May 2022



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

Apologetics

G627 apologia / ap-ol-og-ee'-ah

From the same as G626; a plea (“apology”): -
answer (for self), clearing of self, defence.

G626 apologeomai / ap-ol-og-eh'-om-ahee

To give an account (legal plea) of oneself, that is,
exculpate (self): -

answer (for self), make defence, excuse (self),
speak for self.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

Acts 22:1

Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye **my defence** which I make now unto you.

Philippians 1:7

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the **defence** and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

2 Samuel 12:1a

And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him...

2 Samuel 12:7b ... 9a

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul ... Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight?



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

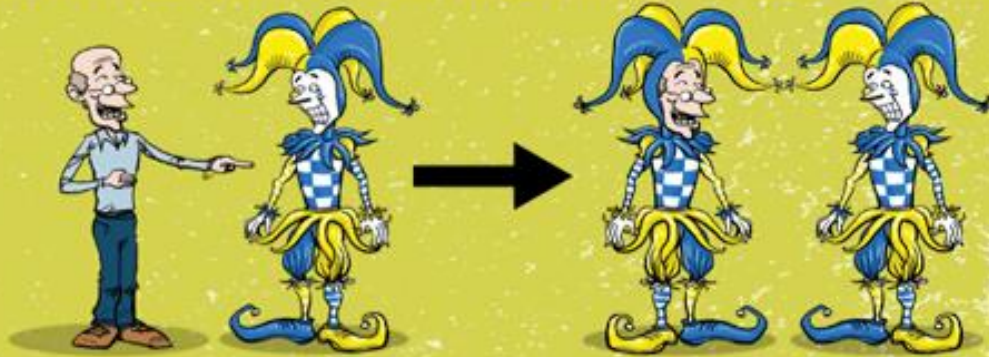
2 Samuel 12:1–7a

And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

DO NOT ANSWER A FOOL ACCORDING TO HIS FOLLY (Prov. 26:4)



An unbeliever may be highly intelligent, but he has embraced an absurd worldview. He is "foolish" according to Scripture (Proverbs 1:7). We should not embrace his standard or we would be like him. But we should reflect his standard back to him, so that he may see the absurdity.

ANSWER A FOOL ACCORDING TO HIS FOLLY (Prov. 26:5)



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

"Apologetics is a ministry designed to help unbelievers overcome intellectual obstacles to conversion, and believers to remove doubts that hinder spiritual growth."

J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God With All Your Mind*, pg 131

"Apologetics is ... a willingness to work with God in helping people discover and turn to his glory."

Alister McGrath



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

Colossians 4:5-6

Walk in wisdom toward **them that are without**, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, **that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**

Jude 1:3

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.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

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:



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

2 Peter 1:4-10 [4-7]

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.** And beside this, giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue; **and to virtue knowledge**; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

2 Peter 1:4-10 [8-10]

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

1 Corinthians

3:1-2 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto **babes in Christ**. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, **neither yet now are ye able**.

13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but **when I became a man, I put away childish things**.

14:20 Brethren, **be not children in understanding**: howbeit in malice be ye children, **but in understanding be men**.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

Ephesians 4:11-16 [11-13] [NLT]

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

Their responsibility is to **equip God's people to do his work** and build up the church, the body of Christ.

This **will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.**



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

Ephesians 4:11-16 [14-16] [NLT]

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, **growing in every way more and more like Christ**, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

2 Timothy 2:14

Remind **everyone** about these things, and command them in God's presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

2 Timothy 2:24-26

A servant of the Lord must **not quarrel** but must **be kind** to everyone, **be able to teach**, and be **patient with difficult people**.

Gently instruct those who oppose the truth.

Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.

Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know** that ye have eternal life, and **that ye may believe** on the name of the Son of God.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

John 20:29-31

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, **because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed**: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But **these are written, that ye might believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and **that believing** ye might have life through his name.



APOLOGETICS-WHY?



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Types of belief



APOLOGETICS-WHY?



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Belief despite
evidence



Unreasonable belief



APOLOGETICS-WHY?



Belief despite
evidence



Unreasonable belief



Belief without
evidence



Blind belief



APOLOGETICS-WHY?



Belief despite
evidence



Unreasonable belief



Belief without
evidence



Blind belief



Belief because of or
with evidence



Evidential belief



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

Paul and others

Acts 17:2-4 – reasoned with them

Acts 17:17 – reasoned in synagogue and marketplace

Acts 17:22-31 – Defended with knowledge of the Greeks

Acts 18:4 – reasoned and persuaded Jews and Greeks

Acts 18:19 – reasoned with the Jews

Acts 18:28 – refuted the Jews (Apollos)



APOLOGETICS-WHY?

Jesus

Mark 2:10-11 – He healed paralytic so they might know

John 2:18-21 – what sign? His resurrection

John 10:36-38 – He gave works as evidence of who He is

John 15:24 – works seal their judgement (since they saw and rejected)

John 20:24-29 – ‘Doubting’ Thomas – because you have seen Me (resurrected) you have believed

Acts 1:3 – He gave many convincing proofs



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