

# Christian Evidences I

## *Study Pack 01 - Lecture 01*

### What is Apologetics?

- 1) Apologetics is often confused with ‘apology’ and is considered a synonym for ‘making an excuse’. Apologetics is not making an excuse, but making an ‘\_\_\_\_\_’. It is a defense of what we believe.
  - a) In the New Testament Greek, the noun form apologia means “a speech made in \_\_\_\_\_”.
  - b) The idea of a ‘written \_\_\_\_\_’ is what you find most often in the New Testament.

#### **Acts 25:16 –**

*To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer [apologia] for himself concerning the crime laid against him.*

#### **1 Corinthians 9:3 –**

*Mine answer [apologia] to them that do examine me is this,*

#### **2 Timothy 4:16 –**

*At my first answer [apologia] no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*

#### **1 Timothy 4:16 –**

*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

- c) The word ‘apologia’ comes from the term used in a legal procedure in ancient Athens, which means:
      - i) to make a \_\_\_\_\_,
      - ii) to give an \_\_\_\_\_,
      - iii) to legally defend \_\_\_\_\_.”- 2) Christian Apologetics is concerned with the defense of the truthfulness of the Christian faith. We’re examining the truthfulness of our faith.

- a) Whether it is secular or religious, we should have questions about what we read and hear.  
\_\_\_\_\_ faith is an inch deep and will not get you very far.
  - b) In ministry, you are dealing with people who have real, legitimate questions. You're going to have to answer these questions.
  - c) Theology and apologetics are twin members of a common family. Our \_\_\_\_\_ goes alongside our \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) We make a meaningful commitment under the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- a) Sometimes, we think of prayer as an attempt to string together the right words, grammar, inflection, and passion in order to get God's attention; if our prayer fails, then we assume we didn't pray right.
  - b) The same thing is true with \_\_\_\_\_; there will be times when we feel that we didn't answer the question perfectly or in the right way. We should remember that the Holy Spirit is doing things in that person's life that we can't see.
- 4) Apologetics presents a compelling reason for the mind to receive Christ as Savior.
- a) Faith is based upon 'credible \_\_\_\_\_' that people can recognize as trustworthy according to the proper criteria for truth.
- 5) There are two purposes for Christian Apologetics. The first is to '\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_', the second is to '\_\_\_\_\_ Christianity' in a way that any given generation can understand.
- a) Defense is proper and necessary because Christianity has been under attack in every time and age.
  - b) Because people's understanding of Christianity changes from one generation to the next, the defense of Christianity changes a bit from one generation to the next. The message is still the same.
  - c) This is why it is important for our apologetics and theology to fit together. If we come up with an apologetic that doesn't match our doctrine, which is wrong? The \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) Apologetics is giving an answer to any \_\_\_\_\_ that is raised.
- 7) A defense given in the wrong way can have a negative effect.
- a) By way of example: skeptics have used \_\_\_\_\_ in their attempts to discredit the book of Genesis as a true historical record. Most Christians do not have an understanding or ready answer to this objection.

b) The 1925, the State of Tennessee, at the urging of John W. Butler, passed a law banning the teaching of evolution in schools. This law became known as the 'Butler Act'. The ACLU asked John Scopes to confess to teaching evolution so that they could test the law in court. The resulting 'Scopes Monkey Trial' was one of the most sensational, public trials in America. It was the first trial to be carried live on national and international \_\_\_\_\_.

A New York Times editorial said: "The case gives scientific men a better opportunity than they've ever had to bring their teaching home to millions."

The trial lasted eight days. During the trial, ACLU lawyer Clarence Darrow questioned Christian Prosecutor William Jennings Bryan about Cain's wife. Bryan failed to give a \_\_\_\_\_ to this question.

A Partial Transcript of the Trial Follows:

Mr. Darrow: Mr. Bryan, do you believe that the first woman was Eve?

A- Yes.

Q- Do you believe she was literally made out of Adam's rib?

A- I do.

Q- Did you ever discover where Cain got his wife?

A- No, sir; I leave the agnostics to hunt for her.

Q- You have never found out?

A- I have never tried to find.

Q- You have never tried to find?

A- No.

Q- The Bible says he got one, doesn't it? Were there other people on the earth at that time?

A- I cannot say.

Q- You cannot say. Did that ever enter your consideration?

A- Never bothered me.

Q- There were no others recorded, but Cain got a wife.

A- That is what the Bible says.

Q- Where she came from you do not know.

8) The world, at that moment, focused on the fact that Mr. Bryan \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ give an answer to the question.

It took the jury less than nine minutes to convict Butler of teaching evolution; he was fined \$100. The ACLU attempted to pursue the matter to the United States Supreme Court, but the verdict was overturned by the State Supreme Court on a technicality.

The impacts of Bryan's \_\_\_\_\_ to defend the Bible were far-reaching. Laws were passed allowing the teaching of evolution in 22 states. The public's perceptions of Christianity were permanently damaged. Confidence in the Biblical account began to erode.

Once American culture doubted the historical aspects of the Biblical record, they soon began to doubt the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ aspects of the Scriptures.

9) This matters because skeptics have claimed that for Cain to find his wife there must have been races of people, or other people, who did not descend from Adam and Eve. Nevertheless, the Scriptures teach us that everyone came from Adam and Eve, which is why we believe that there is one race: the Human Race.

10) Where did Cain get his wife?

**Genesis 3:20 –**

*And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

11) The first woman was named 'Eve' and \_\_\_\_\_ people, other than Adam, are descendants of Eve because she was the first woman. Cain was the first child of Adam and Eve. Abel was the second child. Cain later slew Abel.

**Genesis 4:1-2 –**

*And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

**Genesis 4:25 –**

*And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.*

**Genesis 5:4-5 –**

*And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.*

12) These verses, together, tell us that Adam had other children. Adam and Eve were commanded to be fruitful and multiply.

13) Scripture doesn't tell us how many children Adam and Eve had. The Jewish Historian Josephus writes that Adam had \_\_\_\_\_ sons and \_\_\_\_\_ daughters according to the old traditions. But Adam's nine hundred years of life gave him plenty of time to have children.

14) Working from Scripture, without any extra-biblical ideas, we would see Cain and Abel marrying a sister. Cain didn't have to go somewhere else on the earth to find another race of people.

15) We're not told when Cain married as the Scripture only tells us when children were born, but we do know that Cain married someone from Eve (whether a direct sister or a near relative) because Eve is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

- 16) The Hebrew word for ‘wife’ in Genesis 4:17 derives from the Hebrew word *’ishshâ* which means means ‘woman/wife/female or ‘from man’. This relates to what Adam said in Genesis 2:23 (Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.) makes it more obvious that Cain married a \_\_\_\_\_ or closely related niece.
- 17) Every time we fail to properly defend the Scriptures, they may experience a similar erosion of trust in the Scripture. This is especially true of young people. Telling a young person to not ask question because ‘this is just how it is’ allows an element of doubt to sink in and their faith erodes.
- 18) The Scriptural basis for apologetics:  
 Matthew 22 – Jesus answered objections raised by the Pharisees, Sadducees, and lawyers.  
 Acts 2 & 3 – Peter answered objections raised by the Jewish people.  
 Acts 4 – Peter and John answered objections raised by the Sanhedrin.  
 Acts 17 – Paul practiced apologetics at Athens.  
 Acts 22 – Paul answered objections before the mob in Jerusalem.  
 Acts 23 – Paul answered objections before the Sanhedrin.  
 Acts 24 – Paul answered objections before Felix.  
 Acts 25 – Paul answered objections before Agrippa.
- 19) What is the purpose of Apologetics?  
 a) To solidify the \_\_\_\_\_ of a Christian.  
 b) To maintain a Christian \_\_\_\_\_ in the framework of our secular society.  
 c) \_\_\_\_\_. Helping someone to understand the purpose of this life for the purpose of Evangelism.
- 20) Apologetics is \_\_\_\_\_ the faith.
- 21) Christian Apologetics should never stop guarding against attack.

## Communicating the Faith

“Christian Apologetics is not like living in a castle with the drawbridge \_\_\_\_\_ while occasionally throwing stones over the wall. If a Christian adopts this attitude either in theory or in practice his contact with those who have accepted the 20<sup>th</sup> century thought will stop. It should be thought out and practiced in the rough and tumble of the living \_\_\_\_\_ with the present generation.

“Thus the Christian should not be interested only in presenting a nicely balanced system on its own like some Greek metaphysical system, but rather in something which has constant \_\_\_\_\_ with reality: the reality of the questions being asked by its own generation.”

- 1) Our faith has to be able to be lived out in the rough and tumbleness of life. Our apologetics must be able to do the same. You’re not doing ministry in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- 2) No one can become a Christian unless they understand what Christianity is saying. This is why the communication of the Gospel is so important. We have to be able to give them understanding so that they can come to faith.
- 3) Many pastors, missionaries, and teachers seem to be helpless as they try to speak to educated people, or the masses of people, from time to time.
  - a) They've never \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_. They don't seem to face the fact that it is our task to speak to our generation.
  - b) The past is gone; the future is not here yet. We're talking to those who are here in front of us. What are they dealing with? How can you speak to them?
- 4) The positive side of Apologetics is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel.
- 5) It is important to remember that we cannot separate apologetics from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) When you're giving the Gospel, or an answer to someone, and they don't accept it, then your conversation is not done. The Holy Spirit is reminding that individual of your answers and prompting them to think about what was said. The Holy Spirit is convicting them.
- 7) Apologetics is about the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that we're in. It's not about flesh and blood.
- 8) The biblical emphasis that knowledge is needed to bring salvation will influence us to obtain knowledge. ( \_\_\_\_\_ precedes faith.)
- 9) That person may have questions before they come to a knowledge of a saving faith. You have the opportunity to gain that knowledge to present to that person. You will influence that person with knowledge, communicating the Gospel and communicating truth.
- 10) Historical Christianity has never separated itself from \_\_\_\_\_. We have this idea, especially in our culture, that Christianity is separate from knowledge. As a result, we're looked at as dumb, ignorant people.
- 11) The invitation to act comes only after an adequate base of knowledge has been given.

**John 20:30–31 –**

*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.*

- 12) Jesus did not ask them to follow \_\_\_\_\_. He gave them signs, historical events, His life, His death, and His resurrection as recorded in the Gospel.

13) The order of these verses is important.

- a) First, we see the \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ that these proofs that are written; we can carefully consider them.
- b) Second, the proofs of such a nature as to give good, sufficient \_\_\_\_\_ that Christ is the Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament and, also, that He is the Son of God.
- c) Third, they were not asked to believe until they faced questions and had those questions \_\_\_\_\_ with evidence.

14) We don't ask people to just believe, trust, without evidence. We have to give them answers. This is what we see Christ doing and that's why it's so important that we would do that as well.

**Luke 1:1-4 –**

*Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.*

15) Luke is laying the groundwork of true knowledge. There are things that happened in history, within time and space, that are good for us to understand.

16) We're not asking people to be ignorant and trusting. We're laying out truth and asking people to look at it and make a \_\_\_\_\_ — just as Luke did in his gospel.

“Knowledge precedes faith. This is crucial in understanding the Bible. To say (as a Christian should) that only that faith which believes God on the basis of knowledge is true faith, is to say something which causes an explosion in the twentieth-century world.” – Francis Schaeffer, *The God Who is There*

**Memorize 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:*

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