

Why Christian Apologetics is So Urgently Required

Why the "One Minute Apology"?

Like it or not, in the eyes of the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ is unattractive. To the contrary St. Paul frankly acknowledged, "*But we preach Christ crucified [who is] a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles*" (1 Corinthians 1:23). With these two groups Paul effectively described the prejudice of the *entire* unbelieving world. This is not criticism of the Christian claim since only Christ' good news has power to restore and fill empty hearts up to the brim (John 10:10). It is rather a realistic assessment of the seductive power of sin to cloud people's thinking so as to resist that astonishing grace of God.

What is enticing to the world is instead the broad array of sensual attractions which appeal to all five of our senses including sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch. These touch us at many levels through sexual drives, mood and body-altering chemicals, tasty food, and physical activity. Yet the world is also attracted to desires for companionship and friends, security, achievement, and recognition. Although it is not the point of this article, I must clarify that **almost none** of the above are sinful in themselves. So the point is not to deny any of them **except one**. I instead desire to warn people to not let these desires get in the way of God's rightful place in their life. Back then to my original point, in actual fact the world is overwhelmingly enticed by sensual stimuli to such an extent, it renders the Gospel **not attractive**.

I have already documented the multitude of times the theme of apologetics is used in the Bible (well over fifty).¹ It is very clear that the Bible appeals to such indicators of the truth of God's Word precisely because it acknowledges the reality that it is effectively in competition with the attractive (although deceptive) enticements of this world (Genesis 3:6, Jeremiah 2:13, 1 John 2:16). In this way **alone**, temptations are strong enough to lure not only unbelievers, but also believers, into favoring the so-called "promises" of temptation over the voice of God (Luke 22:32, Romans 7:23, 1 Peter 5:8).

Yet the Battle for the minds and souls of the present generation is even greater still. Secularists are not content to leave Christian believers alone. It is not with remorse that I say this, but for the sake of honest truth. Whether by subtle comments that can easily go unnoticed on the one hand, or outright hostile charges on the other, your family is certainly facing an ongoing front of rhetoric that is intended to undermine the faith you have sought to instill in your own children. It isn't fair that believers in Christ of any age level be left defenseless in this matter. The Apostle Paul states to the contrary, "*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...*" (2 Corinthians 10:5). This is what apologetics is. And our times illuminate our urgent need to apply these truths wherever and to whomever we can.

In Jesus Christ our crucified yet risen Savior and Lord,
Pastor Gary © March 1, 2021
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Berlin, PA, USA

¹ Access my paper, "The Pervasive Employment of Apologetics in the Bible," at my website: www.christianityontheoffense.com