



APOLOGETICS
FOR THE CHURCH

Crash Course in Apologetics: EFFECTIVE GOSPEL ENGAGEMENT

We invite you to walk confidently and compassionately as you share the hope of the gospel. This guide outlines a practical path—through perspective, posture, and practice—for engaging unbelievers with truth and love.



1 We are Called

Every Christian is called to do apologetics.

1 PETER 3:15-16

2 Unbelievers Suppress the Truth

Every unbeliever already knows God and actively suppresses that knowledge.

ROMANS 1:18-32

3 The Gospel Dismantles False Beliefs

The gospel has the power to dismantle their belief system (worldview).

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

4 God is Working

God is doing a great work of salvation in this world.

JOHN 12:44-47



5 We Plant & Water

We are called to plant and water seeds of the gospel

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9

6 We Seek Conversation

We aim for conversation rather than confrontation.

COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

7 We Ask Questions

We ask questions to understand their beliefs and identify their authority.

PROVERBS 18:13



8 We Identify Weak Arguments

We do an internal critique of their beliefs to expose contradiction, irrationality, and unlivability.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:20

9 We Point to Christ

We present Christ as the answer to their questions.

JOHN 14:6

10 We Call for Response

We call unbelievers to repent and believe in Christ alone for salvation.

ACTS 3:19-20

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus...”

—ACTS 3:19-20 (ESV)





PERSPECTIVE: How We See It

1

We are Called
Every Christian is called to do apologetics.

1 PETER 3:15-16

- a. Confidence begins with securing your own beliefs
- b. Preparation is a commitment
- c. The manner of our engagement is gentleness and respect (winsomeness)
- d. Our lives must match our words.

2

Unbelievers Suppress the Truth

Every unbeliever already knows God and actively suppresses that knowledge.

ROMANS 1:18-32

- a. We live in God's world and are made in his image, so the knowledge of God is undeniable
- b. Unbelievers suppress the truth about the God they know in a thousand ways
- c. Unbelievers exchange the truth for a lie and are given over to their desires

3

The Gospel Dismantles False Beliefs

The gospel has the power to dismantle their belief system (worldview).

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

- a. Proclaiming the gospel is a spiritual battle
- b. The truth of the gospel has the power to destroy false beliefs and worldviews set in opposition to God

4

God is Working

God is doing a great work of salvation in this world.

JOHN 12:44-47

- a. We don't save anyone, but rather are invited by God to participate in his great work of salvation for our joy
- b. It is God's job to save; ours is simply to tell



POSTURE: How We Do It

5

We Plant & Water

We are called to plant and water seeds of the gospel.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9

- a. Every encounter with an unbeliever is an opportunity to plant a seed of the gospel
- b. Whether the unbeliever repents or not, if I have challenged their beliefs and presented any part of the gospel, it is a success
- c. God brings the harvest in his time, and those who plant and water the seed will receive their reward

6

We Seek Conversation

We aim for conversation rather than confrontation.

COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

- a. We seek to engage unbelievers in conversation in a gentle and respectful manner
- b. No matter how the person responds, we do not stoop to arrogance, antagonism, or insult

7

We Ask Questions

We ask questions to understand their beliefs and identify their authority.

PROVERBS 18:13

- a. We begin every gospel encounter with an exploration of the non-Christian's beliefs
- b. We listen and ask questions to understand them better



PRACTICE: Where We are Going

8

We Identify Weak Arguments

We internally critique their beliefs to expose contradiction, irrationality, and unlivability.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:20

- a. Using questions, we seek to show the unbeliever that their beliefs contradict each other
- b. Using questions, we seek to show the unbeliever that their beliefs are contrary to the facts
- c. Using questions, we seek to show the unbeliever that their beliefs cannot actually be lived in the manner they describe

9

We Point to Christ

We present Christ as the answer to their questions.

JOHN 14:6

- a. Each conversation is tailored to the unbeliever's particular objections to the Christian faith, so there is no script
- b. Rather, we listen for the heart of their objection and present Christ as the only rational and satisfying answer to their questions, longing, and searching

10

We Call for Response

We call unbelievers to repent and believe in Christ alone for salvation.

ACTS 3:19-20

- a. The goal of every encounter is to help the unbeliever to see their guilt before God because of their sin, and then to show them that Christ is the only Savior
- b. We encourage the unbeliever to put their trust in Christ alone for their salvation
- c. We may ask, "Is there anything keeping you from putting your trust in Christ right now for the forgiveness of your sins?"