



Why Apologetics?

The Defense of the Faith

The Essentials of Apologetics

Introduction

What is Christian Apologetics?

“...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a **defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”

– 1 Peter 3:15

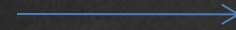
“... knowing that I am appointed for the **defense** of the gospel”

– Philippians 1:16



Word Study

apologia



- Greek Meaning**
- ① A speech of defense, reply
 - ② The act of making a defense

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature.



“...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”

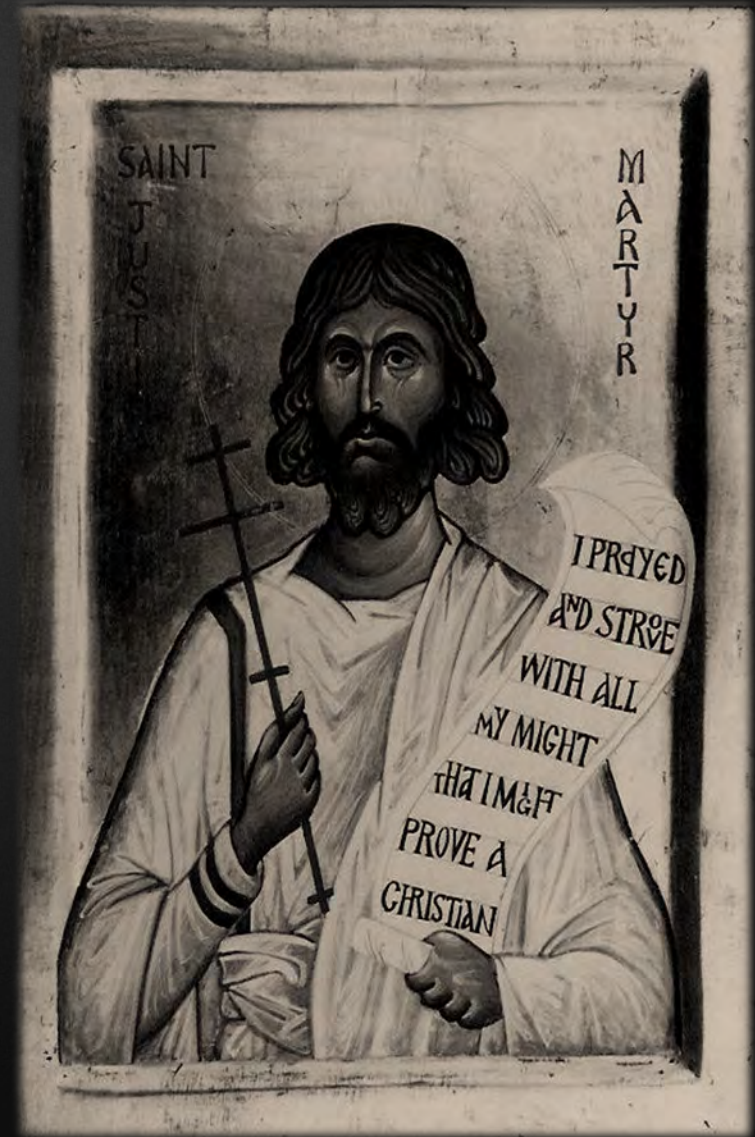
(1 Peter 3:15)

Interpretation & Application

- The Greek word “apologia” provides the textual foundation for what is called “Apologetics”.
- Describes the discipline of providing cogent arguments and reasons for why the Christian belief system should be considered true.
- Peter instructs his readers to “always” (literally “continually”) be at the ready to provide an oral defense for why they are a believer in Christ.

The Rise of the Apologists

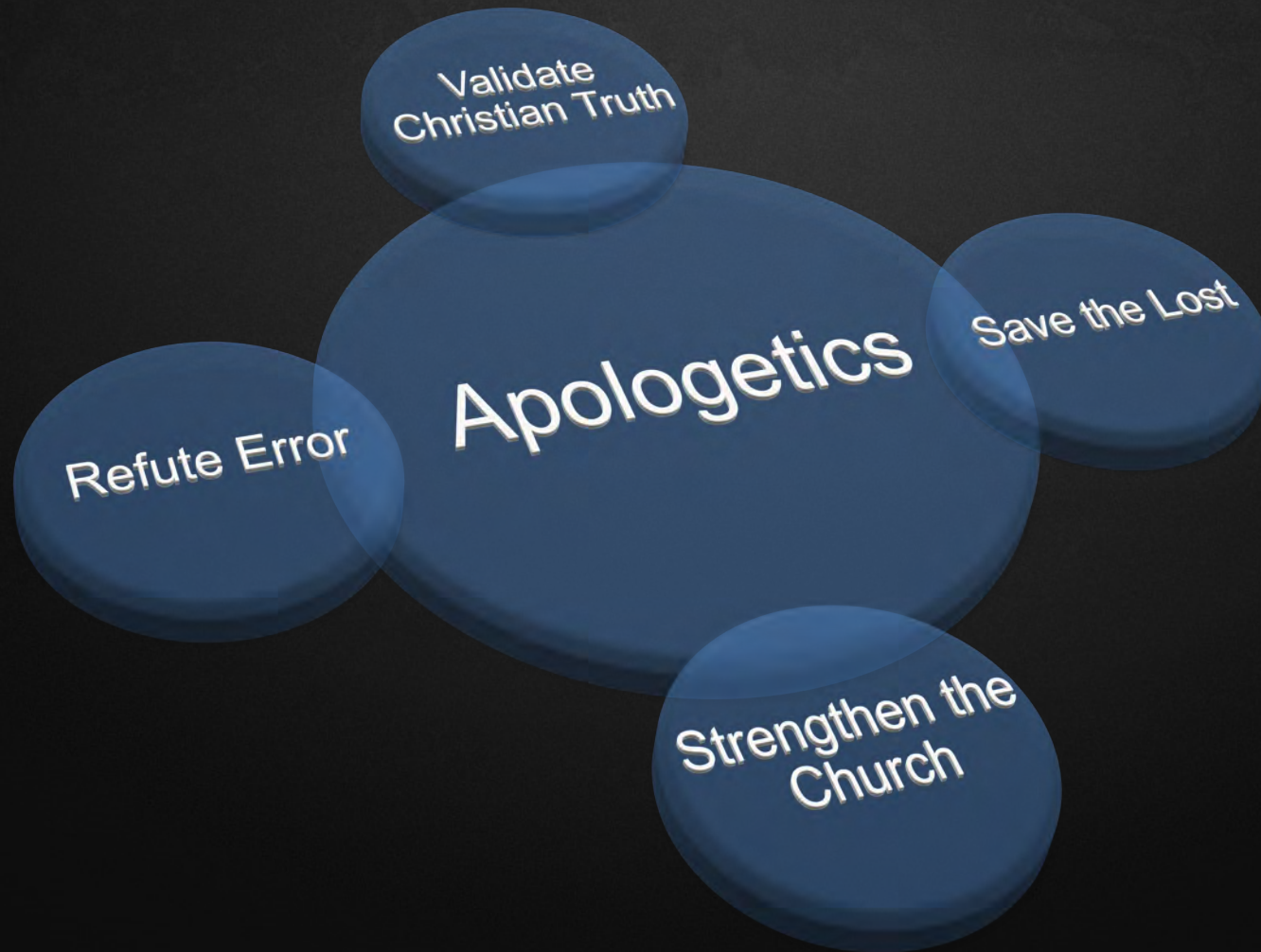
- The age of the early apologists ran from about A.D. 150 to about A.D. 300.
- Pagan scholars rose up to challenge the Church.
- Early apologists like Justin Martyr met the challenge head on using reason and evidence.
- In each period since, Christian apologists have met Christianity's detractors with respectful and well-formed arguments.



Why Apologetics?

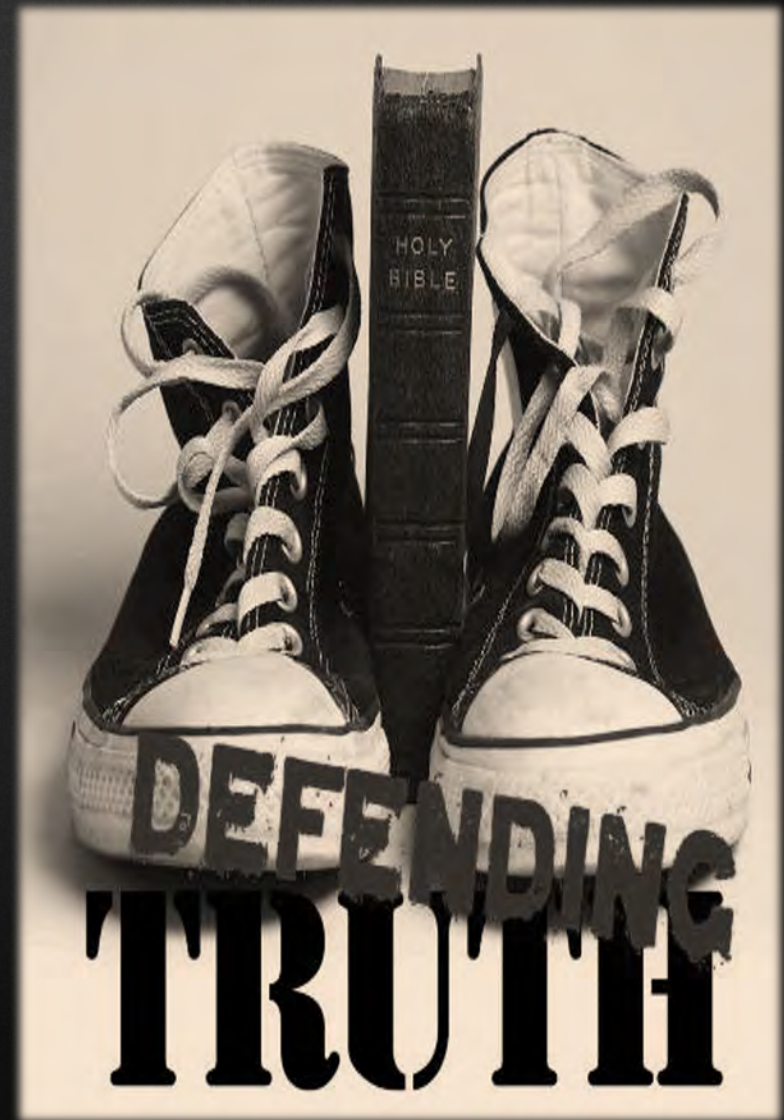
Why is apologetics necessary and what value does it provide?

Why Apologetics?



#1: Validate Christian Truth

- The **first purpose of apologetics** is to validate the truth of Christianity.
- Involves employing philosophical arguments, empirical and historical evidences for the Christian faith.
- Goal: to develop a rational and reasonable case for Christianity against opposing beliefs and worldviews.



Validate Christian Truth



“And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ’”

- Acts 17:2-3

Why Does Truth Matter?



Because eternity is an awfully long time to be **wrong**...

#2: Save the Lost



- The **second purpose of apologetics** is to save the lost.
- Goal is not to win an argument, but instead to persuade unbelievers
- The desired end result is the salvation of the unbeliever.

Save The Lost

“Nearly everyone I know who has embraced Christianity in adult life has been influenced by what seemed to him to be at least a probable argument for theism.”

- C. S. Lewis



Example – Lee Strobel

“Essentially, I realized that to stay an atheist, I would have to believe that nothing produces everything; non-life produces life; randomness produces fine-tuning; chaos produces information; unconsciousness produces consciousness; and non-reason produces reason. Those leaps of faith were simply too big for me to take, especially in light of the affirmative case for God's existence and Jesus' resurrection (and, hence, his divinity). In other words, in my assessment the Christian worldview accounted for the totality of the evidence much better than the atheistic worldview.”

-Lee Strobel

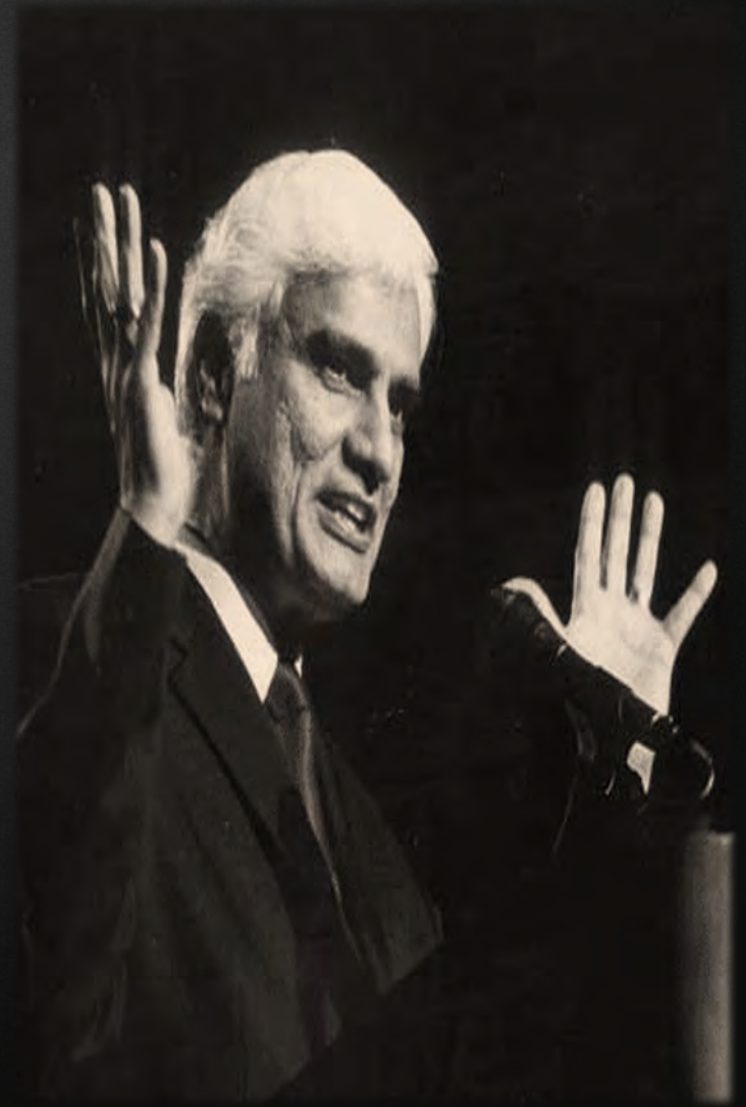
Saved via apologetics




Save The Lost

“The goal in most conflicts is to destroy your opponent. The goal in apologetics is to win your opponent.”

- Ravi Zacharias



One Example of Why Answers Matter

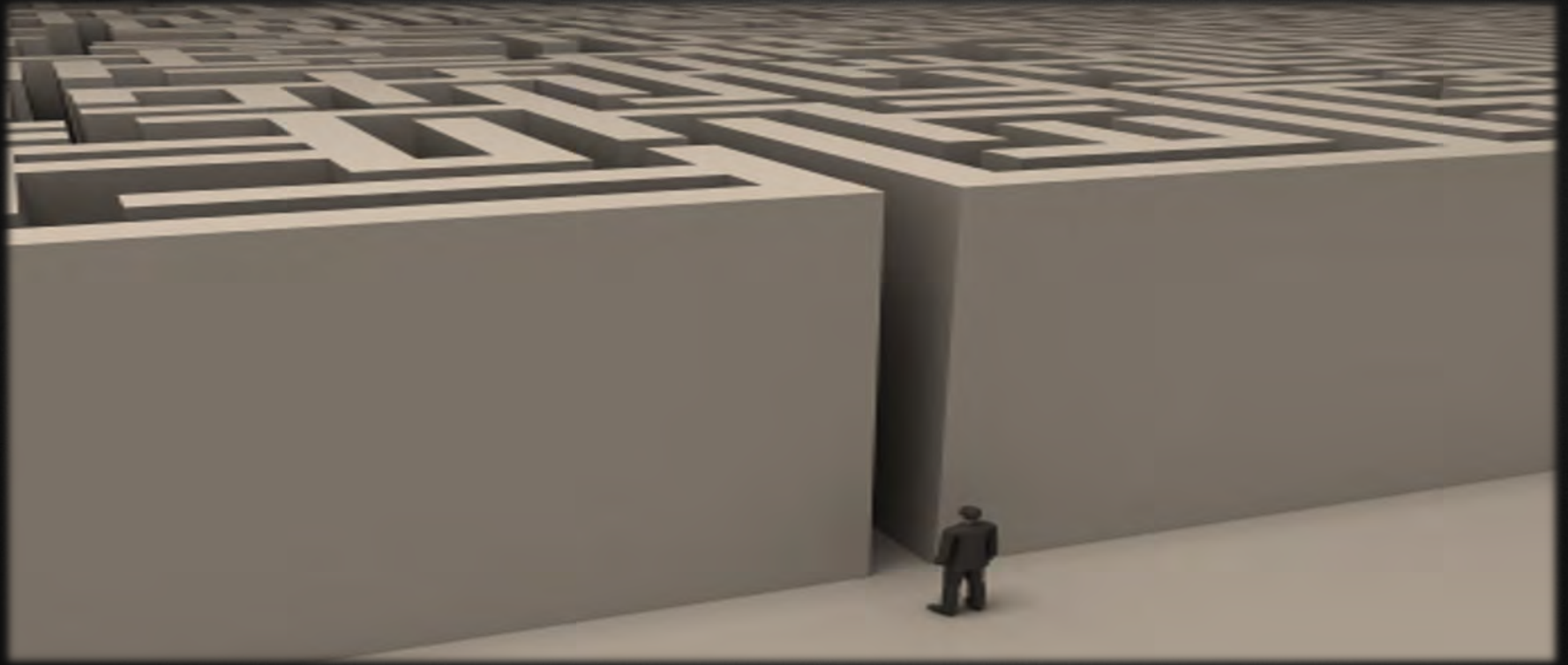


The screenshot shows the homepage of GotQuestions.org. The browser address bar displays "www.gotquestions.org". The site's logo is "got Questions.org" with the tagline "the Bible has answers! we'll find them for you!". Navigation links include "About", "Crucial ?'s", "FAQ1", "FAQ2", "Tools", and "Bookstore". A prominent statistic states "339,115 Bible Questions Answered!". Below this, a search bar is accompanied by the text: "Do you have a question about God, Jesus, the Bible, or theology? Have you ever needed help understanding a Bible verse or passage? Are there any spiritual issues in your life for which you need advice or counsel?". The page features four main promotional banners: "NEW VIDEO" with a video thumbnail, "INTERNATIONAL" stating articles are translated into 140 languages, "THE NETWORK" listing related sites like GOKidz.org and SeekFind.org, and "THE BOOK" highlighting 428 frequently asked questions. A footer menu lists various site navigation options such as "Home", "Statement of Faith", "How to use the site", "Random Page", and "Serve with Us".

Gotquestions.org is the #1 Christian Q&A site on the Web. In 2012 they saw...

- **37 million** visitors
- **75 million** page views of questions and answers
- **135,000** people indicated through the web site that having their questions answered resulted in them becoming Christians in 2012!

Save The Lost



- Apologetics helps guide skeptics and unbelievers through today's worldview maze.
- Uses facts and evidences that lead to God's truth and their salvation.

Example – Josh McDowell

“The more I examined the evidence, the more it took me to the opposite conclusion of what I wanted to reach—that the Bible is the very word of God, and Jesus Christ is His Son, and He was raised from the dead on the third day. I had finally arrived at the conclusion that what my mind told me was true.”

Josh McDowell
Saved via apologetics



#3: Strengthen The Church



- The **third purpose of apologetics** is to strengthen the church.
- Attacks from atheists and skeptics can leave believers with doubts and a weakened faith.
- Apologetics supplies the Christian with rational, logical, and evidential truths that undergird their trust in the Bible.

Strengthen the Church

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ”

- Ephesians 4:14–15



Strengthen the Church

"But solid food is for the mature,
who because of practice have their
senses trained to discern good and
evil."
- Hebrews 5:14



The Importance of the Mind

“The Bible is addressed primarily, though not exclusively, to our understanding. That means the mind. This is difficult to communicate to modern Christians who are living in what may be the most anti-intellectual period of Western civilization. Notice, I did not say anti-academic, anti-technological or anti-scholarly. I said anti-intellectual. There is a strong current of antipathy to the function of the mind in the Christian life.”

- R. C. Sproul



#4: Refute Error



TRUTH
GETS YOU UNSTUCK

- The **fourth purpose of apologetics** is to refute error.
- The goal is to defend and uphold God's truth.

Refute Error

“The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, **with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition**, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth”
– 2 Timothy 2:24–25

“He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and **refute those who oppose it.**”
– Titus 1:9



Refute Error

“Good philosophy must exist,
if for no other reason,
because bad philosophy
needs to be answered.”

- C. S. Lewis



Refute the New Atheists

"We are a nation that is unenlightened because of religion. I do believe that. I think that religion stops people from thinking. . . . I think religion is a neurological disorder. . . . I am just embarrassed that it has been taken over by people like evangelicals, by people who do not believe in science and rationality. It is the 21st century. And I will tell you, my friend. The future does not belong to the evangelicals. The future does not belong to religion."

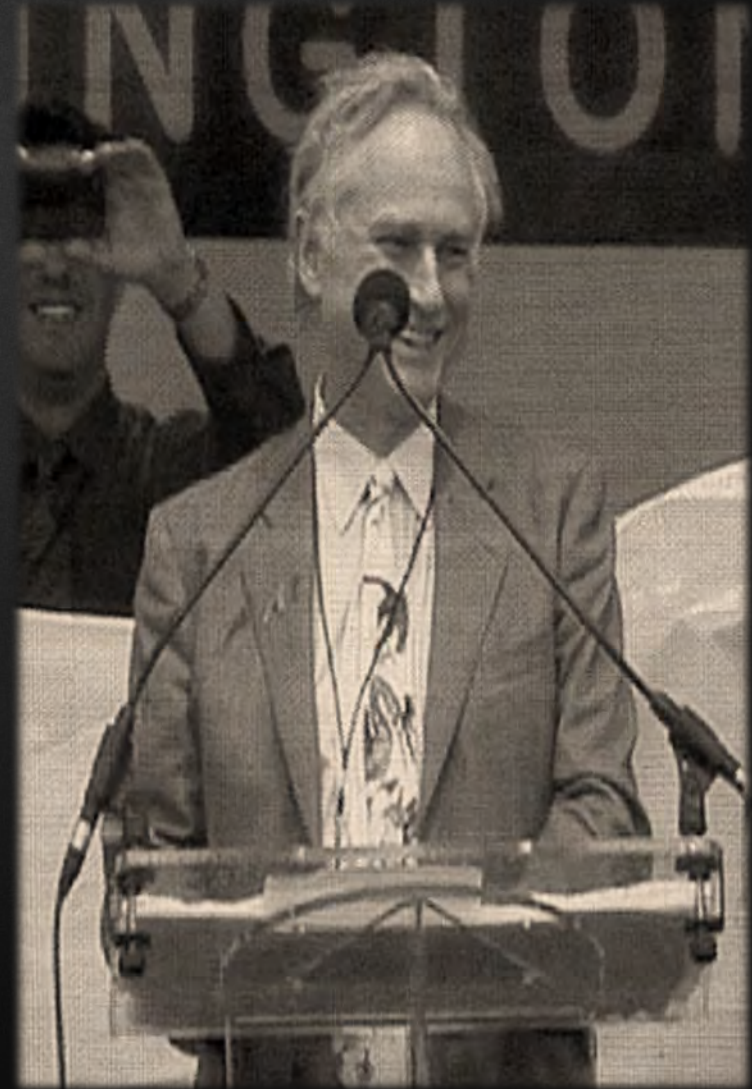
- Bill Maher



Refute the New Atheists

“Mock them, ridicule them in public. Don't fall for the convention that we're all too polite to talk about religion.”

-Richard Dawkins



Refute the New Atheists

MORMONISM:

God Is A Space Alien
Baptizes Dead People
Big Money, Big Bigotry

Atheism: Simply Reasonable

CHRISTIANITY:

Sadistic God; Useless Savior
30,000+ Versions of "Truth"
Promotes Hate, Calls it "Love"

Atheism: Simply Reasonable



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COURTESY AMERICAN ATHEISTS

Refute Error



“We are **destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God**, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”
- **2 Corinthians 10:5**

Conclusions

Final Thoughts

Why Apologetics?

1. Validate Christian Truth
2. Save the Lost
3. Strengthen the Church
4. Refute Error



Final Important Points...

- Apologetics should also include a clear message sent through the life of the apologist.
- Every apologist should reflect Jesus in their character.
- Sadly, the best argument **against** Christianity can be a life that in no way represents the teachings of Christ.

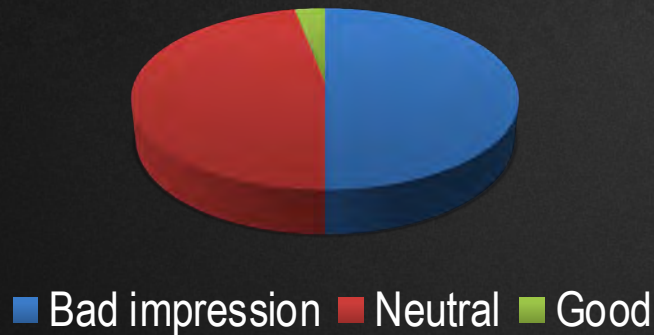


“They would have to sing
betters songs for me to learn
to have faith in their
Redeemer: **and his disciples
would have to look more
redeemed.**”
- **Frederick Nietzsche**

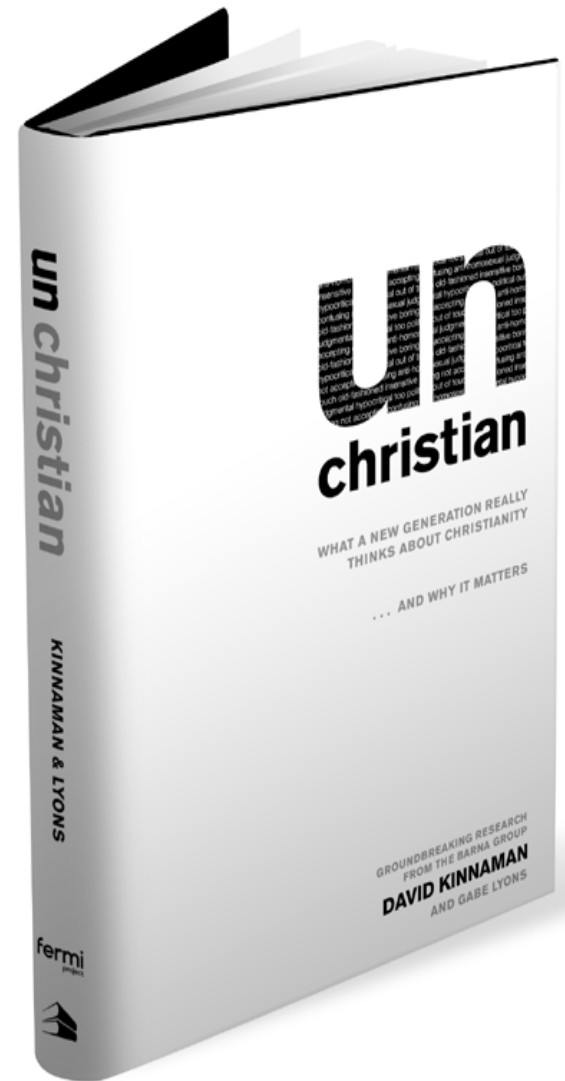
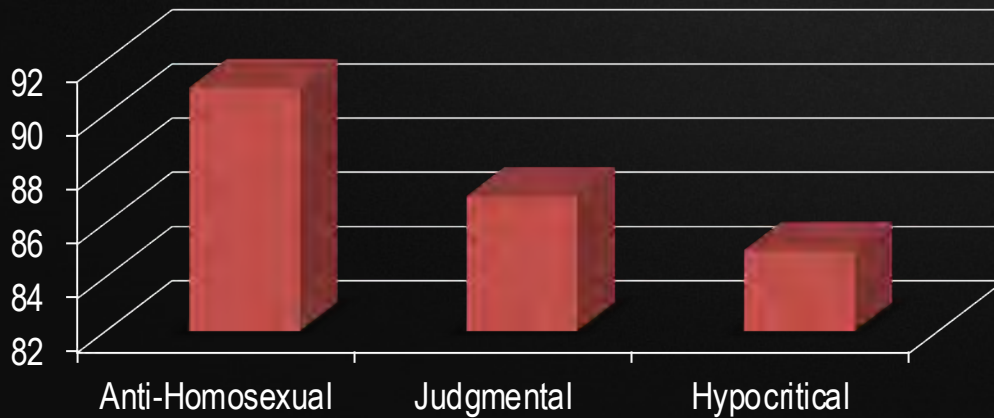


How Are Christians Perceived Today?

Impressions of Christians by Un-Believers



What are Christians best known for?



Final Important Points...



- Lastly, it should be understood that apologetics is not the ultimate cause of a person's salvation.
- God is the one who saves.
- Apologetics is not about 'talking someone into the faith', but rather is one of the instruments God uses to drive His truth into people's hearts and minds.

It is God Who Ultimately Saves...



“A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; **and the Lord opened her heart to respond** to the things spoken by Paul.” – **Acts 16:14**

For More Information/Presentations



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website www.powerpointapologist.org. The page features a dark background with a subtle pattern. At the top, the site's name "The PowerPoint Apologist" is prominently displayed, along with the tagline "Defending the Christian Faith with Style...". Navigation links for "About", "Beliefs", "Full Series", "Topics", "All", and "Blog" are visible. A central banner reads "Always Free... Always Ready... Presentations that communicate truth!" and includes images of presentation slides titled "Origins" and "Why Something is Here". Below this, two columns of content are shown: "What is the Powerpoint Apologist?" with a graphic that says "TRUTH GETS YOU UNSTUCK", and "New/Highlighted Presentation" featuring a laptop displaying a presentation slide with a question mark and the text "Tough Questions...". The footer of the page states "Copyright Confident Christians, 2012".

www.powerpointapologist.org
www.confidentchristians.org

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