

Answers 315

Session 1 – What is Apologetics?

Video 1 – Alex McFarland

- The word “Apologetics” appears about 6 times in the New Testament.
- 1 Peter 3:15 – “Be ready always to give an answer to anyone who asks the reason for the hope you have”
- “Apologetics” comes from the Greek word Apo-Logia – meaning a Defence or Answer.
- For the Christian it means to be ready to explain why you believe what you believe.
- It doesn’t mean to “apologize” for anything.
- We need to be able to give a reason for why we believe that God is real, the Bible is authentic and reliable, and why we believe that Jesus is who the Bible says he is.
- If you are sceptical or just seeking answers for Christianity, seek out the evidence.
- Mortimer Adler (former editor of the Encyclopaedia Britannica) said “If you follow the evidence wherever it leads, and don’t bail out on the journey, you will wind up at Calvary”.
- We need to do this with gentleness and respect. We shouldn’t just **DO** apologetics, we should **BE** an apologetic for Christ.
- This is a high calling, but we are all called to this challenging task.

Video 2 – Lee Strobel

- The Story of Ignatius, the Bishop of Antioch.
- Legend has it that Ignatius was the child that sat on Jesus’ lap when he said “the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
- He was friends of the early Apostles, and was alive during the events of the life of Jesus.
- Ignatius was seized by the Romans for being a Christian, under the edict of the Emperor Trajan, and was sentenced to be killed in the Colosseum in Rome.
- Imagine yourself in this situation. You would want to be absolutely sure that you were confident of what you believed if you were going to be put to death in such a violent way.
- Ignatius wrote 7 letters proclaiming the things he knew to be absolutely true concerning the Christian faith.
 - Jesus was really and truly born.
 - Jesus was really and truly baptised by John.
 - Jesus really and truly performed miracles.
 - Jesus was really and truly crucified
 - Jesus was really and truly laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea
 - Jesus really and truly rose from the dead
- Ignatius was prepared to go to his death because he really knew that the foundation for Christianity was solid and true.
- Christianity is based on solid truth, unlike other religions
 - Not just nice teachings on how we can live a better life
 - Based on actual historical events.
- The truth of Christianity has the power to turn atheists into believers just as it did for Lee Strobel.

Questions:

What are some of your challenges and questions regarding the basis of Christianity?

What are you hoping to get from the Answers315 program?

What are some of the subjects you would like to see discussed or presented as part of this program?

Rate yourself:

On a scale of 1:10 with 1 being "Not confident at all" to 10 being "Absolutely 100% confident" rate your agreement with the following:

"The Bible and Christianity is based on actual historical events and facts."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

"Jesus was a real person, who did the things that the Bible describes, and truly is the Son of God."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

"Jesus Christ really rose from the dead bodily."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

“The Bible is true and trustworthy in regard to all of the historical events it describes.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

“All of the miracles that the Bible describes actually happened historically.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

“I am confident that I could give persuasive answers to most questions that unbelievers or sceptics put to me regarding the truth of God’s existence and the truth of Christianity.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

“Christianity the only true religion and belief in Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

“People who are basically good, but who don’t believe in Jesus can still go to heaven.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

“I am confident that if I died tonight that I would go to Heaven.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10