

## Defending Our Hope 1Peter 3:15

Defense from apologia - "a speech in defense of what one has done, or of truth which one believes"  
- Acts 22:1; 1Corinthians 9:3

Someone asking, "Why are you a Christian?"

Peter says should be ready to give reasons why we believe

*1Peter 3:15 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;*

"Christian Apologetics"? Examination of evidence exists for placing our faith in Jesus as the Christ,  
Son of the Living God

### Christianity - "An Intelligent, Rational Faith"

Appeals to the "mind" as well as to the "heart"

God expects us to use our minds - Matthew 22:36-39; John 8:31-32

Don't have to commit "intellectual suicide" order to have faith!

Important, "My heart cannot rejoice in what my mind rejects!"

"Weak faith" result of heart believe something mind can't accept

"Strong faith" God requires involves both mind and heart

Important present reasons believe in intelligent/rational manner

Enough evidence to warrant making a commitment to Christ

### Christianity Is "An Historical, Factual Faith"

Christianity appeals to history, and the facts of history

"Facts backing Christian claim are not a special kind of 'religious' fact. Are cognitive, informational facts upon which all historical, legal, and ordinary decisions are based." - Charles Pincock

Notice time, places, people & events of history - Luke 2:1-5; Luke 3:1-2

A historical faith that appeals to certain facts of historical occurrence

Not based in philosophy of men, not based in myths and legends

### Christianity Is "An Objective Faith"

It is a faith in an "object": Jesus of Nazareth!

Faith in who He was, faith in what He did!!

It "does" make a difference "what" we believe!

Consider - John 8:24; Romans 10:9

Not faith itself that is important, but in whom (the object) faith is based!

### Christianity Is "Based On Principles Of Truth"

Such as "truth is always open to examination"

Peter appealed to crowd to examine what they knew - Acts 2:22

Paul invited Agrippa to examine the evidence - Acts 26:24-26

Such as "truth is always open to non-truth (falsification)"

That is, it is open to be proven wrong

To illustrate, if you don't believe Jesus was raised from the dead...

Use evidence available, and attempt to prove by it He wasn't!

Then see which interpretation of facts is intelligent and rational

### Why People Reject Christ

As in the days of Christ, it is usually due to one of three reasons...

Ignorance - John 7:40-43

Rejected Jesus Christ because ignorant of historical facts of birth

So many today for similar reason: lack of accurate information!

Pride - John 12:42-43

Want to be approved by men kept from confessing Jesus Christ

Many don't want ridicule/rejection face for following Christ

Moral problem - **John 3:19-20**

Some reject evidence because mean having to change lifestyle

Today, many people in efforts to justify their immorality

What it often boils down to is this: The rejection of Christ...

Not a problem of "mind" but "will" not "I can't" but "I won't"!

There is enough evidence to convince honest and sincere seeker

Not enough to force man against will when determined to reject it!

### **Rational, Fact Based Faith In Jesus**

Using these "basics" should be able to make it clear to all that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God

Honest heart will hear and obey.

Maybe not possible to prove "beyond a shadow of a doubt,"

Try to show it is more logical to believe in Jesus, than for one not to!

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