

Why I 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

Peter says should be ready to give reasons why we believe

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

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 Pinnock

From about 37 AD till now, Josephus, Pliny, Tacitus, Jewish Talmud, H.G. Wells, and others, write of Jesus as an actual historical figure who lived in the first century. - **Luke 2:1-5; 3:1-2**

Historical faith that appeals to facts of historical occurrence

Not based in philosophy of men, nor myths and legends

An Objective Faith

Jesus of Nazareth - Faith in who He was, faith in what He did!!

Not faith itself important, but in whom our faith is based! - **John 8:24; Romans 10:9**

An Intelligent, Rational Faith

Appeals to the "mind" as well as to the "heart" - **Matthew 22:36-40; John 8:32**

"Weak faith" - heart believe something mind can't accept

"Strong faith" God requires involves both mind and heart

Must present reasons believe in intelligent/rational manner

Does this mean we can offer 100% proof? No

Make 100% commitment with < 100% proof; planting crops

Enough evidence to warrant making a 100% commitment to Christ rather than be 100% against Him! - **Matthew 12:30**

Based On Principles Of Truth

Truth is always open to examination - **Acts 2:22; 26:24-26**

Truth is always open to be proven wrong

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

Ignorance - **John 7:40-43**

Pride - **John 12:42-43**

Morality - **John 3:19-20**

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!

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