



Apologetic Approaches to Evangelism

By Dave Geisler

Introduction

- ❖ *The need for a balanced approach*
 - ❖ *The need for compassionate Apologists*
-

I. Why the need for an Apologetic approach?

A. Because of the kind of world we live in today!

- 1. The rejection of moral absolutes**
- 2. The extreme skepticism of our society**
- 3. An indifference towards truth**

B. To help lower people's intellectual barriers

C. It's Biblical!

- ❖ *Apologetics and Evangelism went hand in hand in the N.T.*
-

II. Identifying misconceptions about Apologetics

A. The relationship between Faith and Reason

B. When and how to use Apologetics

C. What is involved in doing practical Apologetics?

D. The limitations of Apologetics

- ❖ Remember that sin has an effect on obscuring the recognition of God's truth.
-

III. Developing an Apologetic approach to Evangelism

A. Inclusion of apologetic elements in your gospel presentation

- ❖ Some suggestions

B. Steps in moving someone toward Theism and Christianity

- 1. Identify where they are spiritually and intellectually**
- 2. Narrow some of their worldview options**
- 3. Gently chip away at flaws in their worldview and distorted perspectives**
 - a. Help them to see the consequences for their beliefs both logically and personally**
 - b. Help them identify the inconsistencies between what they say they believe and how they live.**
- 4. Consider using a two-step apologetic approach when encountering resistance to other approaches.**
- 5. Point out evidence that exist for the Christian faith**
 - ❖ For example: Empty Tomb, Resurrection appearances, Change lives of Disciples, authenticity of the New Testament documents, accuracy of Old Testament Prophecies, existence of a moral law, the principle of causality, Anthropic principle, etc.
- 6. Learn to distinguish smoke screens and roadblocks from legitimate detours**

C. Practical tips in using Apologetics with Evangelism

- 1. Remind them of the two decisions they need to make concerning Christ**
 - ❖ Is there enough evidence to believe that Christianity is true?
 - ❖ Do I want to put my faith and trust in Christ?

2. Develop and memorize an outline that you would use to defend the Christian faith to aid in witnessing situations

❖ (A suggested outline)

3. Find out their biggest barriers to belief in God and Christianity

4. Find out what would motive them to find answers to these difficult questions

5. Develop a greater sensitivity to not only what you say but also how you say it.

6. Be mindful of the fact that your life will speak louder than your words

D. Learn how to use the evangelistic tool to "Two Sources" in witnessing situations

❖ (This Apologetic/Evangelistic tool was originally developed to help reach skeptical grad students.)

IV. Suggested Apologetic resources

A. Apologetic web-site recommendations

B. Apologetic articles on web recommendations

C. Apologetic books and article recommendations