

# A Ready Defense:

An Introduction to Apologetics

# What is Apologetics?

What Apologetics is **Not**:

1. The art of getting really good at saying, “I’m sorry!” over and Over. It is NOT “apologizing”.
2. The art of intellectually forcing unbelievers into submission holds MMA style. It is NOT simply about how to win a debate.
3. Arguing about how many angels can stand on a pin. It NOT about secondary issues.

# What is Apologetics?

## A **Definition** of Apologetics

1. “Apologetics is the branch of Christian theology which attempts to give a **rational defense of the Christian faith.**”
2. Apologetics is giving a **reason for why** you believe **what** you believe.
3. The English word “apologetics” comes from the Greek word **apologia** which means “**to give a reason or defense**”

# Why should we do apologetics?

**Jesus** Did Apologetics: (1 John 2:6 “Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did”)

Examples? (Mt 11:2-6 John the Baptist’s doubts/questions; John 20:24-31 Thomas’ doubts; Mt 5-6 Corrects Misinterpretation; Mt 5)

**Paul** did apologetics: (Philippians 4:9 “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me—put it into practice.”)

Examples? (Acts 17:22-34 Mars Hill; Gal 1:6-10 Rebuking a false gospel; Titus 1:9 Elders called to refute those who do not teach sound doctrine)

**Jude** did apologetics:

Examples? (v 3 contend for the faith; v 22 3 types of people and how to respond)

**Peter** instructs US to do apologetics:

Examples? (1 Peter 3:15 “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”)

# Apologetics **Helps Christians...**

- ...to better **know their faith** and share it more effectively.
- ...to **answer people's real questions/doubts** which hinder them from more fully accepting the gospel.
- ...to have **influence** in the public square (education, media, etc.).
- ...to **prevent doctrinal apostasy** in the Church.
- ...to answer the false claims of **cults and religions**

What are the **various areas/approaches** of Christian apologetics?

**Philosophical** Apologetics (Presuppositional Apologetics)

**Theological** Apologetics

**Biblical** Apologetics

**Scientific** Apologetics

**Religion and Cult** Apologetics

# OBSTACLES to Belief in Christianity

1. **Intellectual Obstacles**: (the problem of evil, evolution, etc)
2. **Emotional Obstacles**: (bad experiences with Christians, hypocrisy, etc)
3. **Volitional Obstacles**: (Christian morality, yielding one's life to Someone, etc.)