

GCI UK Regionals, 2013

***BRIEF INTRODUCTION
TO
CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS***

(J R HENDERSON)

Who said?

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(Elizabeth 1)

Introduction to Christian apologetics

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- From the Greek: ἀπολογία, "verbal defence, speech in defence" (as in a debate)
- A branch of Christian theology which aims to suggest a rational basis for the Christian faith
- Thus it defends the faith against criticism and objections

Some apologetics websites:

- CS Lewis Society
(<http://www.apologetics.org>)
- You're included
(<http://www.gci.org/yi>)
- Alister McGrath
(<http://alistermcgrath.weebly.com>)

Issues

- Does God exist anyway?
- How life began
- Other religions
- After life
- Morality
- Ethics

Guiding thought

“Always be prepared to give an answer
to everyone”

1 Peter 3:8-17 - Context

- Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For,
- ‘Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.
- They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.
- For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’

1 Peter 3:8-17 - Context

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.'

1 Peter 3:8-17 - Context

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 the hope that you have.

1 Peter 3:8-17 - Context

But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Do we have a part in Christian apologetics?

- Peter tells us always to be prepared...
- But how?

- Ideas...how would you prepare?

Ideas from context of 1 Peter 3:8-17

Christians should:

- Live in harmony
- Be sympathetic
- Love as brothers
- Be compassionate
- Be humble
- Not hit back

Ideas from context of 1 Peter 3:8-17

Christians should:

- Do not fear what they fear
- **Set apart Christ as Lord**
- **Reason for the hope**
- Gentleness and respect
- **Good behaviour**

Philippians 2:14-15

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky