



FRONTLINE ACADEMY

Session Four



Apologetics;

an introduction and its role as a
catalyst for evangelism

What is Apologetics?

- Not an apology!
- "apologia" - a speech in defense
- Athens, Greece 5th century BC.

Should we practice apologetics?

Jesus and Apologetics – John 5:31-47

- John the Baptist (vv. 33-35)
- His works and miracles (v. 36)
- The testimony of the Father (vv. 37-38)

Jesus and Apologetics – John 5:31-47 cont.

- The testimony of the Scriptures (vv. 39-40)
- The human condition (vv. 41-44)
- The testimony of Moses (vv. 45-47)

How should we practice
apologetics?

Peter and the heart of Apologetics –

1 Peter 3:15

- Holiness
- Gentleness
- Fear of God

Important Reminders

- We must let the Gospel out – "it can defend itself" (Spurgeon)
- The Gospel is a gift from God, no place for arrogance
- Apologetics without the Gospel, places us at the center -
not Christ

Approaches within Apologetics

Approaches within Apologetics

- ***Fideism*** – Faith and Reason do not overlap
- **Presuppositionalism** – Logical comparison of world views.
- **Reformed Epistemology** – All people have an innate sense of God
- **Experientialism** – Experience is only proof
- **Pragmatism** – What works = truth

Approaches within Apologetics cont.

- **Verdicalism** – Givens + corroboration
- **Combinationism** – Three aspect test: rational, **empirical**, existential
- **Classical Apologetics** – Prove theism, then Christianity
- **Evidentialism** – Evidence based. Can even be reduced to Resurrection alone.
- **Rationalism** – Starting with undeniable facts and building from there. -
“I think, therefore I am.”

What approach is best for
Need Him?

Discussion

Useful apologists to know:

- **Dr. Gary Habermas**, about to release a 5300 page book on evidence for the resurrection with all new material from his other ten or more books!
- **Dr Peter J Williams**, principal of Tyndale House Cambridge. His books are short and accessible.
- **Lee Strobel**, former journalist.