

## Foundations #4 – Biblical Apologetics

1 Peter 3:15-17

Intro: Definition of apologetics (from Webster's Unabridged Dictionary):

- “**apology**: from the Greek *apologia*, something said or written in defense; an argument to show that some idea, religion, etc. is right.”
- “**apologist**. One who ... speaks or writes in defense of a doctrine, faith, action, etc.”
- “**Apologetics**. That branch of theology having to do with the defense and proof of Christianity.”

**I. We need to see that all Christians are apologists. We are either good ones or compromised ones, but all Christians are apologists for something. (see antecedent for preposition “you”)**

**II. We need to see that there are opportunities for apologetics everywhere (ch 2-3)**

**III. We need to use Biblical methods of apologetics (vv. 13-17)**

A. Unbiblical methods of apologetics

1. Authoritarianism
2. Pragmatism
3. Mysticism (Intuition)
4. Fideism
5. Evidentialism

B. The Biblical method – Presuppositional (v. 15 with Prov 26:4-5)  
“set apart the Lord God” and presuppose “the hope” you are defending.

**IV. We need to defend the faith in a godly manner.**

- A. Don't push yourself on them (“defense to everyone who *asks*” – v. 15)
- B. Be humble (“meekness” - v. 15)
- C. Fear God (v. 15)
- D. Maintain a clear conscience (v. 16)
- E. Accompany your apologetic with loving, godly conduct (vv. 16-17)