



Defending Your Faith

Expository Apologetics

“Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.”

PROVIDENCE REFORMED

BAPTIST CHURCH



Lesson 1 – An Introduction to Expository Apologetics

- For the course of this study we will be referencing “Expository Apologetics: Answering Objections with the Power of the Word” by Voddie Baucham.
- Read page 14 and 15 (Introduction).
- If you are a Christian, you are an apologist! (And a theologian, and preacher).



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- Apologetics – 1 Peter 3:13 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their fear, and do not be troubled, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear, 16 having a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing good rather than for doing wrong.



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- “In its simplest form, apologetics is knowing what we believe and why we believe it, and being able to communicate that to others effectively.” – pg. 20
- Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to reprove those who contradict.



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- Jude 1 Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you exhorting that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.



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- “Expository apologetics is merely the application of the principles of biblical exposition to the art and science of apologetics. It is based on the inerrancy, infallibility, sufficiency, and authority of the Bible. This approach to apologetics is not based on acquiring the latest knowledge in fields like astronomy, geology, physics, psychology, or comparative religion. This approach is based on the believer’s need to have a firm grasp on basic truths and a willingness to share those truths when and where the opportunities arise. Our view is always toward gospel proclamation.” – pg. 20
- As Charles Spurgeon stated, ““I take my text and make a beeline to the cross.””



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- Expository Apologetics is about three simple things:
 - 1) Being Biblical
 - 2) Being Easy to Remember
 - 3) Being Conversational



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- There are no new objections to the gospel, so keep the focus on the gospel and let the Bible answer the objections.
- Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- 2 Peter 1:20 Know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes by one's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever made by the will of man, but men being moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.



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- 2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.



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- “We stand before people who have been bombarded every day of their lives by philosophies of life that contradict Christianity. When they open their Bibles. They are rarely aware of how many presuppositions they bring to the encounter, let alone how contradictory they are. They need someone willing to vindicate a Christian philosophy of life.” – pgs. 21-22



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- Vindication through Answering Objections – 1 Peter 3:15
- Vindication through Wrestling with Error – Jude 1-4
- We must first wrestle with our own contradictions and inconsistencies by daily renewing our minds. Romans 12:1-2.
- We must wrestle with contradictions that come to us directly. (Don't be a heresy hunter!)
- We must wrestle with the contradictions that we know to be common among those whom we are responsible to teach. (Parents and pastors).



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- “Apologetics is necessary because of issues such as biblical illiteracy, post modern or post-Christian thinking, open opposition to biblical truth, and the growing presence of opposing religions.” – pg. 24



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- Biblical Illiteracy – this exists in the culture and even in the church! People simply do not know what the Bible says. If someone claims to know, they are usually met with the reply, “That’s your interpretation.”
- Post Modern/Post-Christian Thinking – Either truth is truth or truth is relative.
- Open Opposition to Biblical Truth – Today, Christianity is seen as a threat to freedom instead of as the foundation of our Western Civilization. The Bible is seen as a *dangerous* myth.



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- Three Audiences of Expository Apologetics:
 - 1) The heathen – ignorant of or agnostic toward the gospel. (Evangelist).
 - 2) The churchgoer – sitting under the preaching of the Word. (Preacher/Teacher).
 - 3) The new disciple – new to the things of God. (Discipler).



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- The Evangelist as Expository Apologist
 - 1) Why does unbelief exist?
 - 2) How can you turn any conversation into expository apologetics?
- “Evangelism is more than merely convincing people of the rightness of Christianity or getting them to walk an aisle and pray a prayer. Evangelism is about making disciples.” – pg. 28



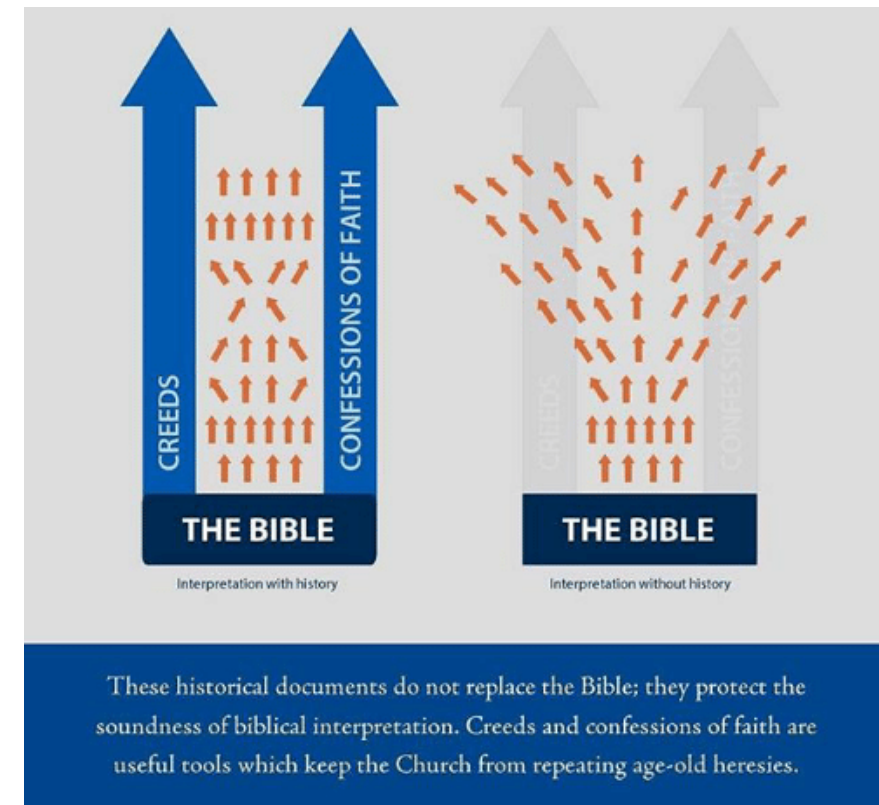
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- The Preacher/Teacher as Expository Apologist:
 - 1) What questions do the text raise?
 - 2) What doctrine am I expounding from the text?
 - 3) What objections are common to this text?
 - 4) What would a person hostile to the gospel be thinking if they heard this text?



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- The Discippler as Expository Apologist:
 - 1) The best tool for discipleship after Scripture is the catechism!
 - 2) The catechisms, creeds, and confessions of faith help fence us in with Scriptural guidelines.
 - 3) The discipler must understand the role of the law in expository apologetics and using catechisms as a training tool.





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- Next week: The Essence of Apologetics