

HOW TO DEFEND THE DEITY OF CHRIST (AND EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S TRUE)

John 10:30-42

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INTRODUCTION: DEFENDING THE FAITH

? How do you make sense of the world around you?

? How do you answer someone when they disagree with what you believe about God?

Apologetics

Reasoned arguments defending a belief or supporting a premise.

Evidential Apologetics

Use of science, history logic, and philosophy to prove the existence of God.

1. This requires a lot of study or knowledge.
2. It starts from a faulty premise.
3. The unbeliever already believes in God.

Romans 1:18-23

Presuppositional Apologetics

Defending Biblical Christianity by demonstrating its consistency with reality and the inconsistency of anything else.

1. State what you believe about God.
2. Answer objections to show how your belief comports with reality.
3. Listen to the other person's beliefs.
4. Point out the inconsistencies of their worldview.
5. Introduce the Gospel and pray that God would open their hearts.

Fascinating in this text is not the claim that Jesus makes, but the way He defends His claim. The claim is a comfort to our souls, but His defense is a model for us as we defend the faith.

I. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD, V. 30

Presuppositional Apologetics always begins with a claim.

A. JESUS CLAIM WAS EASILY UNDERSTOOD

B. A QUESTION POINTS TO EVIDENCE AND REVEALS MOTIVES, V. 32

II. JESUS PROVED THE CONSISTENCY OF HIS CLAIM, VV. 32, 37, 38

A. AS EVIDENCED IN HIS WORKS

1. His Sinless life
2. His Miraculous Work

B. AS EVIDENCED IN GOD'S APPROVAL

1. God Hadn't Struck Him Dead
2. God Gave Him The Power To Work

John 3:2

III. JESUS CONFRONTED THE PEOPLES' INCONSISTENCY, VV. 31, 34-36

A. STONING AS A DEBATE TACTIC, V. 31

1. They Had No Legal Right to Execute Anyone

2. Violence Never Determines Truth

B. THEIR INABILITY TO REASON FROM THEIR OWN SCRIPTURES, VV. 34-36

1. Psalm 82 Calls Unjust Men "Gods"

Exodus 7:1

Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you *as* God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.

2. Why Not Call The Sanctified And Sent One "God?"

IV. JESUS MADE A GOSPEL APPEAL, V. 38

CONCLUSION: DEFENDING THE DEITY OF CHRIST

In the Gospel of John, Jesus words have this supernatural power.

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3. Listen to the other person's beliefs.
4. Point out the inconsistencies of their worldview.
5. When they are left without a leg to stand on, introduce the Gospel and pray that God would open their hearts.

Criticism of Presuppositional Apologetics

1. Circular reasoning.
2. Begging the question
3. Appeal to Authority
 - a. Unbelievers are immune to facts
 - b. The Word of God is Living and Active

APPLICATION

1. Don't be afraid to give an answer for the hope that you have.
2. Find rest in the fact that Jesus is God and to believe in Him is to never be snatched from the Father's hand.