

Equip- Honoring Christ in our Apologetics Study Guide

Introduction

Have you ever heard someone say, "I'm an atheist", or "If there is a God, why is there so much suffering?", or "How narrow-minded to claim there is only one way to God."? Many of us feel ill-equipped, and we miss opportunities, or we just get distracted and don't see opportunities in front of us.

A. Directing our Hearts

1 Peter 3:15

"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you ..."

What does it mean to have our hearts set on 'honoring' Christ when it comes to our defense of the gospel? (see also Matthew 5:13-15).

Discuss how you handle times when your heart is drawn away from Christ and his purposes. What do you do? How can you get your heart back to 'honoring Christ' (see 2 Thessalonians 3:5).

B. Equipping our Minds

1 Peter 3:15

"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you ..."

Read the following statements skeptics make and practice sharing how you would answer. Base your answers on the sermon, and any other resources or thoughts you might have.

1. If there is a God, then why is there so much suffering?
(1 Peter 4:1-2; Romans 5:3-4)
2. How narrow-minded to say there is only one way to God!
(John 10:7b & 9a; John 14:6)
3. I'm an Atheist!
(Romans 1:18-25)
4. Religion is Divisive!
(Luke 12:49-53)
5. Why are so many Christians hypocrites?
(Matthew 24:5; Revelation 3:16)

Message Slides

Bless Practices

Big Idea: Honor Christ in your Apologetics

1 Peter 3:15

"...but in your **hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy**, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you..."

1. Directing our Hearts

"...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy..." 1 Peter 3:15

2 Thessalonians 3:5

"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."

1. Directing our Hearts

"...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy..." 1 Peter 3:15

Matthew 5:13

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."

Matthew 5:14-15a

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand

Big Idea: Honor Christ in your Apologetics

2. Equipping our Minds

1 Peter 3:15

"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you ...

Common Questions

1. If there is a God, then why is there so much suffering?

David Hume

„Were a stranger to drop suddenly into this world, I would show him, as a specimen of its ills, a hospital full of diseases, a prison crowded with malefactors and debtors, a field of battle strewn with carcasses, a fleet floundering in the ocean, a nation languishing under tyranny, famine, or pestilence. Honestly I don't see how you could possibly square with an honest purpose of love.“

What's the context?

Trilemma

1. God is all-powerful
2. God is all-loving
3. Evil exists
4. God is all-wise
5. God lives in eternity

Purpose within Suffering

1. Ceasing Effect

1 Pet. 4:1-2

"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."

2. Character building

Romans 5:3-4

"We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know...perseverance, character, hope..."

2. How narrow-minded to say there is only one way to God!

John 10:7b & 9a- "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door...If anyone enters by me, he will be saved."

Jesus said: "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me." (John 14:6)

3. I'm an Atheist

4. Religion is Divisive

5. Why are so many Christians hypocrites?

Big Idea: Honor Christ in your Apologetics

Bless Practices Image

General Conversation Starters

Personal

- *What's the deal with that tattoo?
- *What's on your bucket list?
- *What influenced you most growing up?
- *What are your goals right now?

Spiritual

- *Do you think this life is all there is?
- *What do you think happens when we die?
- *Do you ever pray?

Your Story

*This was me before I placed my faith in Christ. [i.e.- Empty...]

*This is how I came to place my faith in Christ. [i.e.- Friend...]

*This is how trusting Christ made a difference for me. [i.e.- Purpose...]

Bless Practices Image

Bless Practices Training: January 11th