

**DOES IT MATTER WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY? BIBLICAL BASIS FOR APOLOGETICS**  
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- I. Definition of Apologetics: Reasoned Advocacy of the Christian Faith  
Whereas systematic theology presents the “what” of the Christian faith, apologetics addresses the “why”
  
- II. Context for Apologetics: 1 Peter 3:15-16
  - A. *Content* of apologetics: a ready defense of the hope that is in you
  - B. *Commitment* of apologetics: sanctify Christ as Lord
  - C. *Character* of the apologist: gentleness, reverence, with a good conscience
  
- III. “Apologizing” for Apologetics—aka: Considering a Biblical Basis for Apologetics
  - A. Sample of biblical support for a reasoned advocacy of the Christian faith
    1. Exodus 4:1-9
    2. Mark 2:1-12
    3. John 10:37-38 (cf. 10:25-26; 14:11)
    4. Acts 1:1-11 (esp. 1:3, 11)
    5. Romans 1:18-23
    6. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
  
  - B. Possible objections and answers
    1. Paul’s rejection of “persuasive words of wisdom” (1 Cor 1:17; 2:1-5) – See Acts 17:1-4; 18:1-4; 1 Cor 15:3-8, where Paul used reasoning to bring people to faith
    2. People’s objections to the Christian faith are never valid but always and only cover-ups – See Matt 12:24-30 where Jesus answered objections with reason, logic, and evidence.
    3. Because the Christian faith is a matter of “faith,” reason is neither necessary nor appropriate – See John 20:30-31, as well as texts above under III. A.
    4. Because the Christian faith can be supported with reason and evidence, people can be “reasoned” into the kingdom apart from any work of the Spirit bringing them faith – See Luke 16:27-31; John 3:18-21; 2 Cor 4:4-6, showing that reason is necessary but only with the Spirit is sufficient for true faith and conversion.