

ONE — TRUE — FAITH



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WHY APOLOGETICS?

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW WHY THEY BELIEVE WHAT THEY BELIEVE. IF CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE, THEN WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE IT TO THE WORLD, AND WE SHOULD BE STOKED AT THE OPPORTUNITY!

It is a bummer to see the lack of apologetics among Christians. Many Christians may not realize it, but false religions are growing at an unprecedented rate. That is scary, to say the least.

If those who oppose Christianity are willing to do so much for a lie, then how much more should we Christians be willing to do for the truth? Let's see what the Bible has to say about apologetics¹. . .

- WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO HAVE AN ANSWER FOR EVERY MAN WHO ASKS WHY WE FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST (SEE 1 PETER 3:15).
- "BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD AS A WORKMAN WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, ACCURATELY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH" (2 TIMOTHY 2:15).
- CHRISTIANS ARE TO FIGHT FOR THE FAITH (SEE JUDE 3).
- IT SERVES TO KILL THE DOUBTS IN THE MIND OF THE NEW CONVERT (SEE 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5).
- FALSE TEACHINGS AND IDEAS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED (SEE TITUS 1:9-11).
- GOD USES REASON TO ARGUE HIS CASE (SEE ISAIAH 1:18).

¹ These points are adapted from the Apologetic Evangelism Course Guide, a text written by Joseph M. Holden.

WHY APOLOGETICS?

- BECAUSE WITHOUT EVIDENCE, IT IS UNREASONABLE TO BELIEVE (SEE LUKE 24:39).

**CHRISTIANITY IS REASONABLE,
RATIONAL, AND LOGICAL.**

And it can be demonstrated! So defend the faith and be used by God!

WHY CHRISTIANITY?

WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE THOUSANDS OF RELIGIONS THAT EXIST ALL OVER THE GLOBE, YOU COULD ASK YOURSELF, “WHY CHRISTIANITY?” AFTER ALL, ONE RELIGION IS JUST AS GOOD AS THE NEXT, RIGHT? MOST RELIGIONS AND CHURCHES TEACH GOOD MORALS. THEY ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITY, AND THEY ARE FULL OF FRIENDLY, HARD-WORKING, DEDICATED PEOPLE. SO WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANITY DIFFERENT FROM ALL THOSE OTHER RELIGIONS?

Simply stated, **Christianity is the truth**, and all other religions are false. While some may think that is a bold statement, it is a statement that can be verified.

Consider this: if two people think they have the correct answer to a mathematical equation, but both have different answers, both cannot be right, agreed? One of them is ultimately wrong, while the other is right.

In the same sense, Christianity teaches that the only way to heaven is through a relationship with Jesus Christ, while other religions may teach alternative ways to get to heaven with no mention of Jesus. They may even teach that there is no heaven at all. Therefore, someone must be right, and the other wrong.

When considering Christianity in comparison to these other religions, we want to seek a simple principle. We want to find the truth! So in order for one to find the truth, they must first know what **truth** really is.

TRUTH IS:²

- **NON-CONTRADICTING (YOU CAN'T BE STANDING UP AND SITTING DOWN AT THE SAME TIME, CAN YOU?)**

² Adapted from the **Apologetic Evangelism Course Guide**, a text written by Joseph M. Holden.

- **IT'S ABSOLUTE (2+2 ABSOLUTELY EQUALS 4, NOT 5!)**

WHY CHRISTIANITY?

- IT'S DISCOVERED (YOU CAN DISCOVER THE TRUTH. IT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN FIND.)
- IT'S DESCRIPTIVE (IT TELLS US WHY IT'S TRUE, AND IT GIVES US GOOD, SOLID EVIDENCE.)
- IT'S UNDENIABLE (YOU CAN'T DENY THE FACT THAT THE SKY IS BLUE. THE TRUTH IS STARING YOU IN THE FACE!)
- IT'S UNCHANGING (SOMETHING THAT IS TRUE WILL ALWAYS BE TRUE, LIKE ONE OUT OF EVERY ONE PERSON WILL DIE.)
- IT'S PROPOSITIONAL (IT OFFERS US SOMETHING. IT GIVES US A FUTURE AND A HOPE.)
- IT PERFECTLY CORRESPONDS TO REALITY (IT'S REAL. IT'S SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE. EVERYONE CAN SEE THAT IF YOU DROP A PEN, IT WILL FALL TO THE GROUND. THAT'S HOW WE KNOW GRAVITY IS TRUE.)

Christianity is true because it meets all the criteria we just listed. Other religions fail to meet these criteria, and therefore cannot be considered true. It will be shown briefly in this manual why Christianity is true, and what evidence we have to support that claim.

It should be noted that this manual does not give you all the evidence you need. We're really only giving you the tip of the iceberg. We pray that this apologetics resource will be a blessing and a help to you.

LOGIC AND REASONING

“COME NOW, AND LET US REASON TOGETHER,
SAYS THE LORD” (ISAIAH 1:18).

You may find yourself asking the question, “What in the world is a **logic** page doing in this book?” The very word **logic** can strike fear into the hearts of the unsuspecting, but don’t let it fool you.

Logic is a very simple thing that you use everyday. When making a decision about anything, **you always want to do what makes sense, right?**

For example, let’s say you’re late for church one Sunday morning, and you need to get there as quickly as possible. You have the option of going the way you usually do, but you know you’re going to run into tons of traffic. Or you can take some back roads that can save you about 10 minutes. Most people would choose the route that’s going to save time, because they have “reasoned” it out in their mind that getting there faster would be the better choice since they’re late. That’s logic!

In the same way, you should use this same logic when you’re thinking about spiritual things.

CHRISTIANITY IS BASED ON FAITH.

Without faith it is impossible to please God (see Hebrews 11:6). However, when discussing faith, we should always ask ourselves the question: “Is my faith reasonable?”

The fact is that everyone in the world has faith in one thing or another. The problem is that people think that faith is separate from logic. They think that if you have faith in something, it means that you don’t understand it but you believe it anyway. But the truth is that logic actually supports faith. Logic proves whether or not your faith makes sense. For example, each of us uses faith, even in the smallest of things, every day. Check out this analogy:

Let's imagine that you're taking a walk through downtown Los Angeles, and you come to a busy street corner. You look to your right, and then to your left, and you see that there are no cars coming. Then you start to cross the street.

Just by crossing the street, you used faith. You used faith because you couldn't prove to yourself that you would actually make it across the street. However, your faith was reasonable. Why? You looked to your right, then to your left, and saw that it was clear, so you started to cross. However, you didn't know for sure that you would make it across safely. For all you knew, there could have been a bus in the glare of the sun that you didn't see that could have hit you. Regardless, the faith you demonstrated was reasonable.

LET'S TURN IT AROUND.

You come to the street corner and see that there are tons of cars coming. However, you decide to cross the street, believing by faith that you'll make it across safely. You totally deny the facts that are staring you in the face. As you cross, you're hit and killed! Even though you used faith, your faith turned out to be foolish because you didn't use good logic.

When you think about it, **CHRISTIANITY TRULY IS THE REASONABLE FAITH.**

The Christian faith makes logical sense, unlike all other religions. Just like our analogy, we must examine the facts that lead us to our faith. Here is an example of how logic applies to the Bible:

The Bible commands us to not commit adultery. Some may ask, "Why can't I do what pleases me?" But when you think about it logically, God's command makes sense. If you commit adultery, you will possibly destroy your marriage; hurt your spouse and children; lose the respect and trust of your family, friends, and co-workers; run the risk of

contracting an STD; or a bunch of other consequences. The logical believer would obey God rather than doing what might temporarily please them.

Even though faith comes by hearing the Word of God (see Romans 10:17), the Word of God should be tested to see whether or not it is accurate (see 1 Thessalonians 5:21).

CHRISTIANITY PASSES ALL THE TESTS OF LOGIC.

Other faiths fail to pass these tests. Those faiths should be likened to the person who walked out into traffic and thought they would reach the other side safely. The result is sadly and undoubtedly destruction. When you run into someone on the street, show them how what they are saying doesn't make sense and how God's Word is logical!

**“LOGIC AND REASON ARE THE
SERVANTS OF FAITH.”
—THOMAS AQUINAS**