



God's Answers to Good Questions

Lesson 10 - How Can I Present & Defend My Faith?

PREPARE

- Please read the following passages:
Judges 11
Proverbs 26:4-5
Acts 17
Acts 4
Acts 7
1 Peter 3:15-16
Jude 3
- Watch the video lesson and complete the Study Guide while watching

STUDY GUIDE

I. Are We Supposed to Defend Our Faith?

A. 1 Peter 3:15-16 – *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”*

1. Peter says we should _____ be ready to make a defense
2. This is what is called _____ and comes from the Greek word “apologia” which is not saying, “I’m sorry,” but rather it’s saying, “_____. Let me explain what I believe and why I believe it.”

B. Jude 3 – *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

1. When you contend _____ for something, it’s not half hearted, it’s not lazy ... it’s _____, it is _____, it is trying your very _____ to defend the Faith
2. It is for every Christian to be _____ on a moment’s notice to make their defense

II. Are There Examples of Defending the Faith in Scripture?

A. In the Old Testament, especially among the _____, you will find situations where the prophets are _____ and _____ the falseness of idolatry, where they're looking at the nations and their evil systems, and they're defending the _____ against these false idolatrous systems

1. An _____ example of defending the faith in the book of Judges is the story of Jephthah
2. The king of Moab had made a demand basically said, "Give us back our property that you _____ from us."
3. In Judges 11, Jephthah gives an impassioned defense of the truth, and he calls the king of Moab on the carpet for the _____ that the king had made

B. New Testament

1. In Acts 17, we see the apostle _____, on Mars Hill present the Christian message before a number of philosophers and defend it
2. _____ defended the faith before the Sanhedrin in Acts 4
3. _____ makes a bold defense of the faith before the Sanhedrin in Acts 7
4. _____ often defended the faith against the challenges of the Pharisees and Sadducees (see Matthew 22)

III. How Do We Present a Defense?

A. 1 Peter 3:15-16 – *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."*

1. Sanctify Christ as _____ in your hearts (set Him apart, recognize His Lordship)

- a. Isn't Christ already Lord of my heart? Doesn't He already, as my Savior, hold lordship over my heart?
 - b. Yes, He does ... in fact, He is the Lord of _____ of our lives
 - c. This appeal is to recognize that He is Lord of your _____, over your _____, over your _____, over your _____
2. _____ be ready (prepare and be ready on a moment's notice)
 - a. You need to know _____ you're going to tackle these opportunities when they arise
 - b. Preparing is _____ for actually doing apologetics - if you don't prepare to defend the faith, don't be surprised if you _____ the opportunity
 - c. Always keep on the _____ because these kinds of situations will pop up at any time under all sorts of circumstances
 3. Make a defense to _____ who asks (be responsive to their requests/questions)
 4. For the _____ that is in you (be hopeful, express your hope)
 - a. They see something in you - they know that you're somehow _____, and they wonder about that
 - b. The emphasis here by Peter is on _____, the _____ that is in you - we as Christians have hope, solid _____ for the eternal things, the spiritual things, that God promises in His Word
 - c. If we're _____ our hope and speaking confidently about what we believe, that will sometimes provoke discussions
 5. With _____ and _____ (gentle toward unbeliever, reverent toward God)

- a. Don't be rough ... don't be _____... don't be brash ... don't be pugnacious ... don't _____ them and say, "Well, that's just such a stupid question."
 - b. Be _____ ... be tender ... be _____ ... be sympathetic
 - c. Gentleness is toward our _____, reverence is toward the things of _____
 - d. Don't make _____ about God
6. A good conscience, good behavior (don't give opponent any ammunition)
- a. The background of your life is going to either _____ or _____ the message you're defending
 - b. If you maintain a good conscience, then people will say, "You know, there's a certain _____ between what he's telling me and how he lives his life."
 - c. It's your life that _____ the message, or, conversely, your life that _____ the message that you're professing to believe
7. Don't be surprised when you are slandered (they did it to Jesus too)
- a. When we're slandered, we shouldn't respond with vitriol ... with _____ ... with animosity
 - b. We should instead _____, and continue being kind and gentle and reverent toward the people who are slandering us
- B. Proverbs 26:4-5 – *"Answer not a fool according to his folly, Lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own conceit."*
1. This pair of verses really helps us to understand a two-pronged approach - _____ we are to approach the unbeliever who is challenging the Christian faith, and _____ we are to handle that challenge

2. Answer not a fool according to his folly
 - a. Don't _____ with them
 - b. Don't treat his folly as _____
 - c. We need to _____ the unbelief of the unbeliever because if we don't, we will be like him ... we'll _____ in his folly
3. Answer a fool according to his folly
 - a. "For the sake of argument, let me show you where your position _____ and _____ leads."
 - b. We do this lest he be wise in his own eyes ... he needs to understand how _____ his own position is
4. In some ways, we need to _____ their pagan notions, so that we can show them that Christianity has _____ that their pagan ideas never had

IV. Will It Do Any Good?

- A. We rely upon _____ for the outcomes, and if the Holy Spirit is at work in and through us, there will be good outcomes from it:
 1. God is _____ - by defending the faith, we bring honor to God and reverence to Christ
 2. The truth will be _____ - if we love the truth, we will defend the truth for its own sake
 3. Sinners may be _____ and could be _____ - through defending the truth, some people do come to an understanding of the truth and embrace it
 4. Unrepentant sinners will be left without _____ - they cannot say on Judgment Day, "Nobody ever told me this. I didn't know."

5. Believers will be _____ - even if unbelievers all turn away and reject the message, believers will be encouraged by hearing their faith defended before unbelief

B. If we neglect this, we've _____ against God because He has told us _____ to make a defense for those who ask you