

Sermon Notes

Title: *Giving an Answer for Why You Believe*



Text: I Peter 3:13-17

Theme: The Holy Spirit gives this instruction to every Christian, not just to specifically trained apologists for the Christian faith. Being ready to give an answer for what you believe and why is the duty and the responsibility of every believer.

I. The _____ of I Peter 3:15

II. The _____ Peter Identifies in Framing an Answer for Your Faith (14b-16a)

A. Do Not Be _____ of Your Detractor or
_____ His _____

B. Be Sure that _____ Is Truly the Lord of Your

C. Make _____ to Be
Able to Explain What You Believe

D. Provide a _____ Answer

E. Seize Upon Those Times When Your Detractor
_____ the _____

F. Reply Always to the Inquisitor with _____ and

Next Week Read: 1 Peter 3:13-17 (Part 2 of *Giving an Answer for Why You Believe*)

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. What is the context of I Peter 3:15?
2. When Christians are called to give a reason for their faith, what are they not to fear (v. 14b)?
3. What are Christians to set apart in their hearts (v. 15a)?
4. What is the Christian tasked to do when someone asks for reasons for what he believes (v. 15b)? What is the technical word that refers to the formal defense of the faith?
5. When is the follower of Christ Jesus to be ready and able to provide a reason for what he/she believes (v. 15b)?
6. Whom does Peter assume initiates the conversation (v. 15b)?
7. What are two important ways the Christian is to respond to his/her critic (v. 15b)?
8. What does Peter mean by "the hope that is in you" (v. 15c)?
9. How do Christians sometimes unwittingly adopt the worldview of the non-believer when presenting reasons for their faith?
10. How do you "set apart Christ as Lord" in your heart?
11. How are you preparing yourself to be ready to provide reasons for your faith?
12. How do most non-Christians respond when a Christian quotes a Bible verse in making a point in a debate? How is proof-texting abused when answering a critic?
13. What does it mean to put forth a "Biblically-reasoned" answer?
14. How can Christians be more adept in stimulating a non-Christian to ask about their beliefs?
15. How do we often show disrespect to critics of the Christian faith when we seek to respond to them?
16. How can parents personally prepare their children for the questions they will face regarding the faith?
17. What strategies and practices have you found helpful to prepare yourself and your family to answer those who ask questions about the faith?
18. Is there a difference in approach you should use with those who ask questions about Christianity versus those who attack the faith? If so, what?
19. Why are we often afraid or reticent to provide reasons for what we believe as Christians?
20. What issues of the Christian faith do you feel most prepared to defend? What issues do you feel least prepared to provide answers?