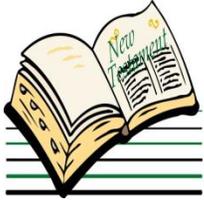


Title: "Giving an Answer for Why You Believe"
Part 2



Text: 1 Peter 3:13-17

Theme: You and I are not responsible to convince the one who challenges our faith. We are not responsible to change their minds and hearts. God will do that if He is pleased. But we are responsible to give an answer.

I. The Context of 1 Peter 3:15

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

- A. Do Not Be Afraid of Your Detractor or Adopt His Worldview
- B. Be Sure that Christ Is Truly the Lord of Your Life
- C. Make Constant Preparation to Be Able to Explain What You Believe
- D. Provide a Biblically-Reasoned Answer
- E. Seize Upon Those Times When Your Detractor Initiates the Conversation
- F. Reply Always to the Inquisitor with Calm and Confidence

III. **Practical, Biblical Counsel for Making a Defense of Your Faith**

- A. Do not assume a " _____ " position regarding your ultimate _____ to the truth in laying the _____ for your answer.
- B. For the sake of _____, you may assume the _____ of the critic in order to show that it is ultimately _____.
- C. You do not need to know every _____ of a critic's _____. Think in terms of the _____ that underlies your opponent's position.
- D. It is _____ to provide _____ of the truth of Christianity, but always remember that the evidences you provide must be _____ and understood from a Biblical worldview.
- E. Do not be _____ into thinking that your answers for what you believe are what _____ a critic that Christianity is true.

- F. Always argue _____ though this does not mean you simply _____ Bible verses to answer the critic.

Next Week Read: 1 Peter 4:1-6

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

1. What is the context of 1 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. When giving an answer for the faith, how might a Christian compromise his ultimate commitments when laying the foundation for the reasons he believes in Christ?
12. How would you handle challenges to the veracity and the authority of the Bible?
13. For the sake of argument, how would you use an evolutionary worldview to make the point that ethics and values are meaningless on such a foundation?
14. Give an example of how non-Christians cannot live consistently with their non-Biblical understanding of the world.
15. Even though you may not know much about point mutations, genomic rearrangements, or horizontal gene transfer, all which are claimed to be essential in microbial evolution, how would you analyze the presuppositions behind such details and respond to the evolutionary conclusions they purport to substantiate?
16. What is meant by discerning the difference between science and the philosophy of science?
17. What must we be aware of when we provide evidence for the Christian faith to the non-Christian?
18. Do you think most non-Christians really believe that Jesus rose again from the dead? If they do, why do they not claim Him as their Lord? If they do not, why do they not believe He rose from the dead? What is needed to understand the meaning of Jesus’ rising from the dead?
19. What is the difference between reason and persuasion?
20. How might Scripture be abused when reasoning with an unbeliever about the truthfulness of Christianity? How can you use Scripture effectively in discussing the faith with an unbeliever?