



# Defending Your Faith

*Expository Apologetics*

“Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.”

PROVIDENCE REFORMED

BAPTIST CHURCH



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- For the course of this study, we will be referencing “Expository Apologetics: Answering Objections with the Power of the Word” by Voddie Baucham.
- Chapter 2: 1 Peter 3 and the Essence of Apologetics



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- “Apologetics is not about coming up with some new philosophical slight-of-hand or some some argument people have never heard of. Expository apologetics is about doing the basics and doing them well.”  
– pg. 34
- What are the basics? Let’s go to the Bible: 1 Peter 3.
- Our goal today is to make it clear that apologetics is not only for the specially trained philosophers and intellectual giants. Peter wrote this for All believers to show them “how to live and believe in light of the curiosity and opposition their faith would certainly encounter.” – pg. 34
- Peter is writing to weak, persecuted, discouraged, struggling saints.



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- Just as a lack of discernment is a sin (Romans 1:31), so to is it disobedience to God’s Word for a believer to refuse to engage in apologetics (1 Peter 3:15).
- Some refuse because they have seen “apologists” who are rude, arrogant, condescending, and just jerks, or worse, downright mean. They act as though they want to beat their opponent and rejoice when he is judged by God.
- We must remember that our goal is always redemptive – to see Jesus save sinners by the means of grace He has given us to sow the Seed of the Gospel.





## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- Voddie writes, “I am convinced that when we understand Peter’s teaching on apologetics we will see that (1) his admonition is for every Christian, (2) it has nothing to do with creating an elite, special forces brand of Christian, (3) it is rooted on the context of humility, holiness, and suffering, and (4) it ought to be a natural part of our Christian walk.” – pg. 35
- To understand what Peter is saying, we must look at the *context* of this paragraph we are focusing on in chapter 3.



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- The theme of this section of Scripture in 1 Peter 2:11-3:12 is winning the respect of outsiders by our conduct as Christians.
- We are identified as “pilgrims and exiles” (2:11-12) and as such are reminded of three means through which we win the respect of outsiders.
- All 3 involve humble, faithful submission to authority.



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- First, submission to authority is a command that calls “believers to live out their faith in ways that testified to the validity and impact of the gospel they preached and believed.” – pg. 36
- Submission to authority is obedience to God (Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17; Eph. 6:1, 5).
- This authority is presented in 3 arenas in the text: government, family, and work.



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- Government – 1 Peter 2:13 Be subject for the sake of the Lord to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do good. 15 For such is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 Act as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as slaves of God. 17 Honor all people, love the brethren, fear God, honor the king.





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- Work – 1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are crooked. 19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unrighteously. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it, you endure, this finds favor with God.



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- Family – 1 Peter 3: In the same way, you wives, be subject to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 as they observe your pure conduct with fear. 3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on garments; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible quality of a lowly and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being subject to their own husbands, 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children if you do good, not fearing any intimidation. 7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered..



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- In our concluding paragraph for this section (3:8-12), Peter begins, “Now to sum up.”
- This begins “an admonition to all Christians, regardless of their circumstances, to live in quiet, humble submission and faith.” – pg. 37
- This paragraph shows us the identity, attitude, conduct, and character that are assumed in the paragraph that follows (3:13-17).



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- 1 Peter 3:8 Now to sum up, all of you be like-minded, sympathetic, brotherly, tender-hearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but giving a blessing instead, for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. 10 For, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. 11 He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- The Identity of the Apologist: “All of you” (vs. 8).
- The Attitude of the Apologist: “Like-minded, sympathetic, brotherly, tender-hearted, and humble in spirit” (vs. 8).
- The Speech of the Apologist: “Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but giving a blessing instead (vs. 9).
- The Character of the Apologist: “For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous” (vs. 12).
- Again, these all set the immediate context of vs. 13-17.





## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- 1 Peter 3:13 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their fear, and do not be troubled, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear, 16 having a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing good rather than for doing wrong.



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- The theme of righteousness is critical to understanding apologetics. It is our righteousness that marks us out as “strangers and aliens.”
- We are “a chosen family, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10).
- “This people transcends geographical borders, socioeconomic strata, ethnic distinctives, and generational differences.” – pg. 41



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- “Eventually, our Christian citizenship manifests itself in ways that are irreconcilable with our non-Christian neighbors. When that happens, we face opposition, and sometimes persecution and suffering, all of which relate directly to our righteousness in Christ.” – pg. 42
- Our righteousness will bring opposition and suffering. That means that “apologetics is not a tool to make people like us or accept us.” – pg. 43
- We cannot believe that if we make the right argument, refute the falsehood, and set people straight on the facts that they will like us and bow the knee to Christ. The opposite is more likely to happen – apologetics heightens the tension between two kingdoms.



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- Our righteousness is born of our devotion to Christ – “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.”
- Honor the Lord as holy (Isa. 8:13).
- Remember that Christ is LORD! Fear Him, not men. (Matt. 10:28).



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- Our righteousness requires an explanation – “always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.”
- This is the essence of apologetics.
- We must know what we believe.
- We must know why we believe it.
- We must be willing and able to explain that belief to others in a winsome manner.
- We are convinced. Others can be convinced!





## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- Our righteousness vindicates our explanation – “having a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.”
- Remember, this is within the context of suffering and submission! We are not using apologetics to “dominate discussions, overthrow empires, or change public opinion. Apologetics is ultimately an expression of our willingness to suffer rather than compromise [what we believe].” – pg. 47



## Lesson 2 – The Essence of Apologetics

- Conclusion: “We have examined the identity, attitude, speech, and character of the apologist. We have also seen that our apologetic is rooted in righteousness that is ours in Christ. We will see in the next chapter that the absence of this righteousness accounts for the unbelief of those who oppose us. While we proclaim the truth in the righteousness that is found in Christ, they suppress the truth in unrighteousness. As such, our next stop is the first chapter of Paul’s epistle to the Romans.” – pg. 47
- Lesson 3 – Unrighteousness and Unbelief