

APOLOGETICS 101 — PART 6 – Discipleship Class

Answering Common Questions

Apologetics is not about having a perfect comeback. It's about giving clear, biblical answers with a calm spirit and a loving tone so people can see Jesus, not just our opinions.

Key Scriptures (NKJV References)

- **Colossians 4:5–6** — Speak with grace, seasoned with salt.
- **James 1:19** — Be swift to hear, slow to speak.
- **Proverbs 15:1** — A soft answer turns away wrath.
- **2 Timothy 2:24–25** — The Lord's servant must not quarrel but be gentle.
- **1 Peter 3:15** — Be ready to give a defense with meekness and fear.
- **Acts 17:2–3** — Reason from the Scriptures.

The Goal of Your Answer

The goal is not to “win.” The goal is to _____.

A great apologetics answer does three things:

1. **Shows** _____ to the person
2. **Shares** _____ from Scripture
3. **Points to** _____ as the hope

Most people don't need a lecture. They need a **clear** _____ and a _____ **conversation**.

Biblical Points (Write These in Your Heart)

1. **Listen first: apologetics begins with** _____ (James 1:19)
2. **Speak with grace, not** _____ (Colossians 4:5–6; Proverbs 15:1)
3. **Don't quarrel- be gentle and** _____ (2 Timothy 2:24–25)
4. **Use Scripture as your** _____ (Acts 17:2–3; John 17:17)
5. **Keep your answers simple and** _____ (1 Peter 3:15)

6. **It's okay to say, "I'll look into that."** (Proverbs 18:13)

7. **Trust God to work; only He changes** _____
(1 Corinthians 3:6–7)

Definitions (Must-Know for Ministry Workers)

1) **Objection**

A concern or _____ someone raises about the faith.

2) **Conversation Bridge**

A short phrase that keeps the conversation peaceful and _____.

3) **Burden of Proof**

Who must give reasons for a _____ often both people should think carefully.

4) **Straw Man**

Misrepresenting what Christians believe to make it easier to _____.

5) **Testimony**

Your personal _____ of what Jesus has done in your life.

6) **Discernment**

Spirit-led wisdom to recognize _____ from error.

The "CALM" Method

4-step approach:

C — Clarify

"Can you tell me what you mean by that?"

"Where did you hear that?"

A — Affirm the person

"That's a fair question."

"I'm glad you're thinking about this."

L — Lead with Scripture

“Here’s what the Bible teaches...”
(Use 1–2 Scriptures, not 10.)

M — Move toward Jesus

“Jesus is the center of this.”
“Can I tell you what He _____?”

Bridge Phrases (Use These to Stay Peaceful)

- “That’s a thoughtful question.”
- “I hear you, let’s slow down and look at it.”
- “Can I share what the _____ says?”
- “I may not know everything, but I do know Jesus is _____”
- “Let me answer clearly and kindly.”
- “That’s important: _____ you for asking.”

Common Questions + Simple Biblical Answers

1) “How do you know God is real?”

Simple Answer: God reveals Himself through _____, conscience, and His _____, and many of us have experienced His transforming power.

Scripture References: Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1; Hebrews 11:6

Bridge Phrase: “Have you ever had a moment where you felt God tugging on your heart?”

2) “Why is Jesus the only way?”

Simple Answer: Because only Jesus is the sinless _____ who died and rose again: He didn’t just show a path, He *is* the _____.

Scripture References: John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5

Bridge Phrase: “Can I share what makes Jesus different from every other religious leader?”

3) “Hasn’t the Bible been changed?”

Simple Answer: The Bible has been carefully preserved and passed down, and Christians trust it because it is God-breathed and _____ in its message, pointing to _____.

Scripture References: 2 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35

Bridge Phrase: “What part makes you most unsure: the copying, the translation, or the meaning?”

4) “Why would a good God allow suffering?”

Simple Answer: We live in a fallen _____, but God is not absent He works through pain, draws near to the broken, and promises final _____ and restoration.

Scripture References: Romans 8:28; Psalm 34:18; Revelation 21:4

Bridge Phrase: “I’m sorry for what you’ve been through. Do you want to share what’s behind the question?”

5) “Aren’t Christians hypocrites?”

Simple Answer: Some believers fail, but hypocrisy doesn’t cancel _____. Jesus is perfect, and He’s the One we _____. The church is a place for healing, not _____.

Scripture References: Romans 3:23; Mark 2:17; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Bridge Phrase: “You’re right, people mess up. But can we talk about Jesus Himself?”

6) “Do all roads lead to God?”

Simple Answer: God is loving, but He is also Holy. Jesus is God’s provided way of salvation; truth isn’t created by preference; it’s revealed by God.

Scripture References: John 14:6; Matthew 7:13–14; Acts 4:12

Bridge Phrase: “If truth matters, then the destination matters too. Can we look at what Jesus claimed?”

Check-In (Fill-In Section)

1) James 1:19 says be swift to _____, slow to _____.

Answer: **hear, speak**

2) Colossians 4 teaches our speech should be with _____.

Answer: **grace**

3) True or False: The Lord's servant should be quarrelsome when challenged.

Answer: **False**

4) A straw man is when someone _____ what you believe to argue against it.

Answer: **misrepresents**

5) "CALM" stands for: C _____, A _____, L _____, M _____.

Answer: **Clarify, Affirm, Lead, Move**

Quick Review

Apologetics answers should be _____, clear, and biblical. We listen first, speak with _____ avoid quarrels, and use Scripture as our foundation. With the "CALM" method and bridge phrases, we can respond to tough questions while keeping the focus on Jesus and trusting God to work in hearts.

Reflection Questions

1. Which question in this chapter do you hear the most in real life?
2. What is hardest for you: staying calm, staying kind, or staying clear?
3. Write one bridge phrase you can start using immediately.
4. Why is listening a powerful part of apologetics?
5. Who can you pray for this week who needs gentle truth?

Role-Play (Write Your Responses)

Choose **two** questions and write your own calm answer (2–4 sentences each).

Question #1: _____

My calm answer:

Scripture reference(s): _____

Question #2: _____

My calm answer:

Scripture reference(s): _____

Practical Challenge

This week, memorize **two bridge phrases** and practice the **CALM method** in one real conversation (or role-play with a friend). Then write a short note:

“What went well?” _____

“What can I improve?” _____

Discipleship Notes from APOLOGETICS 101 Researched and Written by
Stephanie Smith with www.TheBibleClassroom.com &
www.DiscipleshipClass.com