



# *What Will You Say?*

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## An Introduction to Apologetics

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*Presentation by:*

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Redeemer Church of South Hills

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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# *What Will You Say?*

## An Introduction to Apologetics

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*Every Christian Does Apologetics*  
*How to Rock Someone's Worldview*

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### **Session One**

What is Apologetics?

Apologetics Goes Hand in Hand With the Gospel

The Spirit of Apologetics

The Use / Limitations of Evidence (Facts)

No Neutrality

The Heart of the Problem - Sin

Take Every Thought Captive to the Obedience of Christ

Three Key Intellectual Sins to Take Notice of  
and Lovingly Point Out

Arbitrary

Inconsistency

Preconditions for an Argument (Preconditions of Intelligibility)

# Every Christian Does Apologetics

## Session One Pastor Joe Griffo

### I. What is Apologetics??

#### A. 1 Peter 3:8-17

1. Sanctify = Venerate - Honor - Set apart - (Christ)
2. Always being prepared
3. Defense - Apologia
4. To anyone - Any person who asks about your faith
5. Reason for the hope - Why you believe what you believe
6. Gentleness - Mildness - Meekness - Humility - without arrogance, anger, pride, etc.
7. Respect - Reverence - Not condescending, but with genuine concern

#### B. Jude - (1-4)

1. Told what to do - "Contend"
2. Told how to do it - "Earnestly"

#### C. Acts 17:16-34 - Paul's Apologia at Athens

D. Apologia = A reasoned defense of the Christian faith. A biblical response to questions asked, objections raised, or attacks on the Christian faith.

II. Apologetics Goes Hand in Hand with the Gospel

A. God's Sovereignty and Your Responsibility:

1. You are responsible for proclaiming the Gospel in all its fullness
2. You are responsible for giving an answer for the faith
3. God is the one who changes the heart (Saves)

III. The Spirit of Apologetics

- A. Giving a defense of the faith does not mean that we get or become defensive
- B. Giving a defense of the faith doesn't mean being offensive

C. It's showing the unbeliever that:

1. They cannot make sense of anything apart from God
2. That they are absolutely dependent upon God
3. That they continually "borrow" from the Christian worldview

IV. The Use / Limitations of Evidence (Facts)

A. The Facts do not speak for themselves

B. The evidence / facts are interpreted through the lens (filter) of their particular worldview

C. Rescuing Device(s):

1. Reasons or explanations that are used to "save" people from having to let go of their most basic beliefs
2. A kid told that Santa isn't real
3. The bodily resurrection of Jesus
4. Collusion Delusion
5. Privileged Planet

## V. No Neutrality

### A. Nobody is Neutral

1. Everybody has a set of core beliefs
2. We do not seek neutrality, but we compare / contrast worldviews

### B. The Bible and Neutrality

1. Jesus' Ministry - Matthew 12:30
2. Apostle Paul
  - a) Acts 17:22-31
  - b) Colossians 2:1-4, 6-8
  - c) 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

## VI. The Heart of the Problem - Sin

A. Genesis 3:1-13

B. Romans 3:9-20

C. Ephesians 4:17-18

## VII. Take Every Thought Captive to the Obedience of Christ

### A. The Nurse and Jesus' Resurrection

## **How To Rock Someone's Worldview**

### Three Key Intellectual Sins to Take Notice of and Lovingly Point Out

#### I. Arbitrary - Subjective to the individual will or judgment, contingent solely upon one's discretion

##### A. Four Ways in Which People are Arbitrary . . .

##### 1. Mere Opinion

- a) Giving personal opinion on a matter without any evidence, facts, authority to back it up; i.e. - 'I think Christianity is based on wishful thinking.'

##### 2. Relativism

- a) The teaching that truth and morality exist in relation to culture/society, and are NOT absolute; there is no absolute truth; that truth for you may not be true for me.

##### 3. Conjecture - People offer what seem to be rather reasonable, somewhat intelligent objections, yet they lack the facts, evidence, research, etc. i.e. - 'since the Bible was written so long ago, it seems likely that you can't trust the text to be accurate'; "It would stand to reason . . ." - "One would think"

4. Unargued Bias - Certain things just taken for granted - “everybody knows”; no need to defend the idea, proposition, etc. i.e. - Miracles: ‘Everybody knows miracles don’t happen.’

## II. Inconsistency

### A. Legal Fallacies

1. Sweeping Generalization
2. Ad Hominem
3. Appeal to Fear

### B. Behavioral Inconsistencies - Actions speak louder than words

## III. Preconditions for an Argument (Preconditions of Intelligibility)

### A. Giving an Account for a Person’s Most Taken for Granted Beliefs

### B. Answering the “Why” Question



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## *Apologetics in Action*

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### **Session Two**

The Bible Lays Out a Sound Approach for  
Interacting with Unbelievers

Abortion

Homosexuality

Justice

# **Apologetics in Action**

## **Session Two**

**Luke Griffo**

### I. The Bible Lays Out a Sound Approach for Interacting with Unbelievers

#### A. Proverbs 26:4-5

#### B. “Don’t Answer the Fool According to His Folly...”

1. Do not mirror attitudes of unbelievers

2. Do not adopt the worldview of unbelievers

a) Do not put away Scripture

b) Illogical and disobedient (1 Peter 3:15)

#### C. “Answer a Fool According to His Folly...”

1. Show the unbeliever they live inconsistently

2. Illustrate that their worldview is foolish

a) Self-defeating - fails by its own standards

b) Biblical worldview is consistent

## II. Abortion

### A. Presuppositions

1. Woman decides the value of what is in the womb  
vs.  
Human value is based on being made in God's Image

### B. "Don't Answer..."

1. All man is made in God's Image
2. God "knits us" in the womb (Psalm 139)
3. Forbids murder

### C. "Answer..."

1. What makes a human valuable?
2. When does a human become valuable?
3. Their worldview cannot answer why life is valuable

### D. The Gospel

1. Being made in God's Image makes us all accountable to God
2. We have all failed to meet God's standard...

### III. Homosexuality

#### A. Presuppositions

1. Personal preference makes right  
vs.  
God determines standard for sex

#### B. “Don’t Answer...”

1. God sets standard for sex
2. God institutes and defines marriage
3. Homosexuality is sinful

#### C. “Answer...”

1. Incest?
2. Pedophilia?
3. Why consent?

#### D. The Gospel

1. All sin must be punished, and all have sinned

#### IV. Justice

##### A. Presuppositions

1. Individual defines justice  
vs.  
God is justice

##### B. “Don’t Answer...”

1. God defines justice
2. God is always just and righteous
3. All sin deserves to be punished

##### C. “Answer...”

1. What’s wrong with genocide?
2. Beneficial in an atheist worldview

##### D. The Gospel

1. God’s justice demands sin be punished
2. All of us deserve justice

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## *The Tough Questions*

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### **Session Three**

Islam  
Miracles  
The Problem of Evil

**The Tough Questions**  
**Session Three**  
**Pastor Joe Griffo and Luke Griffo**

I. Islam

A. Biblical Approach Still Works for Theistic Religions

B. We Need to do Our Homework - Know at Least the Basics

1. Do not believe Jesus was crucified (4:157)
2. Do not believe in the Trinity and accuse Christians of polytheism (4:171)
3. Believe that the Law, Psalms, and Gospel are divine books

C. Main Focus: What Muslims (do not) Believe about Jesus

D. Presuppositions

1. Quran  
vs.  
Bible

E. “Don’t Answer...”

1. Islam and Christianity are not basically the same
2. The Bible reveals that Jesus is God, He died, and was resurrected

F. “Answer...”

1. Quran encourages people to read Jewish/Christian Scriptures to test Mohammed

a) Implies the Bible is trustworthy/not corrupted

2. How do God’s books become so corrupted?

3. Their god either cannot or does not preserve revelation - absolute certainty is impossible

G. The Gospel

1. Our works cannot make us right with God, only Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection can

II. Miracles

III. The Problem of Evil

A. The Argument: If God is both all-powerful and all-good, then evil cannot exist. Either He cannot prevent it or does not want to.

B. Presuppositions

1. God cannot possibly exist if evil exists

vs.

God and evil both really exist



C. “Don’t Answer...”

1. The Bible clearly teaches the existence of evil
2. Teaches that God is perfectly powerful and good - no evil in Him
3. Man is personally responsible for evil entering the world - consequence for sin
4. God has authority over man and his choices
5. God has a morally good reason for allowing evil

a) Joseph, Jesus

D. “Answer...”

1. Remember, they assume objective evil exists
2. How do they know what is evil? What is the standard?
3. Universal and objective, or personal preference?

E. The Gospel

1. Evil really exists, and all of us have committed it
2. Have all violated God’s perfect standard of goodness, and deserve to be punished

## Glossary

Apologetic (apologia) - A verbal defense, a speech in defense of something. A reasoned statement or argument

Neutrality Fallacy - Everyone must have an unquestionable ultimate standard that forms the basis of his/her worldview - Nobody is or can be neutral.

Original Sin - Effects of Adam's sin on the rest of the human race; "That sin and its guilt that we all possess in God's eyes as a direct result of Adam's sin.

Presupposition - A foundational assumption in a person's reasoning. A personal commitment that is held at the most basic level of a person's network of beliefs. Presuppositions are things a person simply takes for granted in their thinking. They have the greatest authority in one's thinking - the least negotiable beliefs.

- i.e. - Evolutionist presupposes naturalism - Creationist presupposes God (supernaturalism)

Rescuing Device - A conjecture (reason(s)) designated to "save" a person's view from apparently contrary evidence.

Worldview - An entire network of presuppositions; one's most basic beliefs about reality in light of which all observations are interpreted.

All evidence, facts, etc. is filtered and interpreted through one's worldview.