

## APOLOGETICS 4 Why Do Apologetics?

### God Commands Us to Do Apologetics: Colossians 4:5-6 (and grandma's victory over Steven Hawkin) (DDR #554)

While there are a plethora of scriptural reasons to do apologetics, I begin with God's commands because regardless of where a Christian is, he should at least recognize his need to obey his Lord. Even if the believer does not see his need to provide a good testimony for Christianity or care about the blessings of being used to reach others, or think he does not need to study and fortify his own faith, he should at least recognize that God is the one who is sovereign over his life and, he best be mindful that God is in charge. To reject the command to do apologetics is to rebel against God Himself.

The passage under consideration is

Colossians 4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as *it were*, with salt, so that you may know how you should answer every person.

Verse 5: "*Conduct*" yourselves is the present active imperative of *peripateo* (περιπατέω) which refers to your walk of life. The imperative shows it is a command—God does not give us an option in the matter! The present tense shows that this is to be your walk of life all of the time. The kind of walk is called wisdom, *sophia* (σοφία). This constant life of wisdom that is commanded by God is directed toward outsiders—those who are outside of the Christian faith.

Verse 6: The imperative of verse 5 continues in verse 6 (no main verse in verse 6) where we are given an example of this wisdom, namely that we know how to answer every person. The inescapable truth is that every believer is commanded to know how to answer every unbeliever.

To many believers this challenge is unwelcomed news. For one, they like to believe that Christianity is *merely* for their *own* spiritual lives (makes their life better, gives them peace and maybe even prosperity) and they really do not care about others. Others are simply overwhelmed at the prospect of defending Christianity to anyone. There is nothing that I, as a pastor-teacher, can do for the former, who is but a self-serving Christian who uses God almost exclusively *for* the spiritual perks. However, for Christians who desire to live a life in conformity to the will of God, I can and will provide the information necessary for any believer to defend the faith before any unbeliever.

Let's move to an example of an informal debate between a grandma, with only a sixth grade education, who takes on the most popular and formidable atheists of our time—the self-styled Four Horsemen: Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, Daniel Dennett, and Richard Dawkins. Just to try to make it a bit more even and give the atheists a little more help, let's bring in on their side one of the greatest minds of our time, an Einstein of sorts, namely the atheist/agnostic Steven Hawkin to join the side of the Four Horsemen.

Grandma understands the gospel and has been taught the basic indubitable three laws of logic. In their informal conversations, she of course starts with asking them what they think about Jesus Christ and offers them the gospel. Each of the horseman gives his *opinions* about Jesus and ends with some statement about how there is no need for Jesus or God to account for the world. Grandma then asks them how they account for the beginning of the universe. They all quickly give their pat answers, but unsatisfied with their answers, she asks them again "but if there was absolutely nothing in the very beginning, which I know you all agree, then what and how created all of this?" Each horseman again has their different theories to which she replies "do you believe in the first three laws of logic". They all said "absolutely—no one can

deny the basic laws of logic.” She then turns to the smartest one, Steven Hawkin, and says “I understand that last weekend you reported that we no longer needed God to account for creation of the universe” (this actually happened last week). She continued, “I am a bit confused, can we go back to the first law of logic—the law of non-contradiction which states that an A cannot be A and a non-A at the same time and in the same way?” She continues, “I thought that you said that in the beginning there was a nothing but now you are saying there was this shadowy quantum world from which creation popped into existence. How can a nothing be a shadowy quantum world? . . . how can an A be a non-A? . . . you do agree that nothing and the *something* that you label a quantum shadowy world of power are not the same thing? . . .well, do you?”

Hawkin and the four horsemen scramble around with their high-flown theories and attempt to dismiss grandma, but she responds, “I just don’t understand how you intelligent people so easily violate the very first law of logic and so freely speak out of both sides of your mouth. . . and I understand that people actually buy your books!”

If people are going to reject Jesus Christ and resort to excuses that will not even pass the first law of logic, how dark must be the darkness of that soul be! See Psalm 14:1; Rom 1:18-21.

In Him,

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