



“What is ‘Apologetics’?”

I was asked this question a couple of times this past month. It’s a term you may have heard a lot recently as something that’s very important for Christians. Unfortunately, it’s a confusing term, because when we hear it we automatically think of another word we are familiar with: “apologize.” Then we think “Why should I apologize for believing in Jesus? That makes no sense.”

“Apologetics” is actually the opposite of “apologizing.”

Apologetics is the practice of defending your faith in Jesus. Peter defines it well in 1 Peter 3:15 “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

In our world today there are countless things people put their faith in. Not only that, but “atheism” (the belief that there is no god) is becoming increasingly popular. As a result, the ability to “give reason for the hope we have” may be more important for Christians now than it ever has been.

Most of us have grown up knowing that, as Peter said in Acts 4:12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven, given among men by which we must be saved.” It’s no longer enough to simply tell people - including our kids - that Jesus is the only way to eternal life. We need to be able to tell “why” Jesus is the only way.

Here’s an example of “apologetics” that I used in a recent sermon: “Of all the things and people you can put your faith in, Jesus is the only one who dealt honestly with our sin problem. Others typically pretend that sin is something that doesn’t exist or isn’t that big of a deal. Or they teach that we can successfully cover it up by doing good things. Only Jesus treats sin as what it is, something that unless it is removed, will naturally keep us out of the presence of our sinless God for eternity.”

I described it this way using some terms we are all too familiar with: “We deserve to be quarantined from our Sinless God for eternity, because every single one of us has tested positive for Sin! But Jesus, the very Son of God, took our Sin-sickness on Himself - AND DIED as a result of it - so that we could have the cure: Forgiveness. Forgiveness is the “antibody” that gets rid of the sin, so we no longer have to face being quarantined from our sinless God. Rather, we can look forward to spending eternity with Him!

Of course, this gift of God’s Forgiveness is like any other gift, it needs to be opened in order for us to benefit from it. Faith in Jesus (the One who bought the gift) is what “opens” that gift, so we personally receive it!”

Thank God He loves you so much He would rather die than live quarantined from you forever!

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net