

We are living in a day where Christians need to be first and foremost godly, loving, kind, and winsome, so people would actually ask about the _____ we have. 3:8-9

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Conclusion – If we want to reach our own children and grandchildren and those in our community we must...

1. Win a hearing by our godly lives and loving relationships.
2. Be able to give kind, clear, intellectually compelling answers about Jesus, the Bible, other religions, and science.

Reminder – God is preparing people all around you (John 4:34). They will respond because life is not working for most and the gospel (not your presentation or wisdom) is the power of God for salvation. Romans 1:16

Decision – I, _____ to learn “Why I Believe” and prayerfully seek to pray for and practically love those I long to know Jesus.



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Why I Believe

Part 1, Rethinking Apologetics for the 21st Century

Intro – What is apologetics and why does it matter so much in the Church today?

◇ Defining Apologetics

◇ My Story: 1976–2019

- Dr. “P” – A disturbing challenge – 1976
A life changing decision
- God’s Answer = 1976-1978
Testing my faith – W.V.U – 1978
- A decade of learning 1980’s
The Santa Cruz challenge – 1990-2002
- The Book – 2017
Blindsided by a teenager

◇ The Question – What must our apologetics look like in the 21st Century?

◇ Rethinking Our Communication & Lifestyles

- **Yesterday:** Apologetics were about what we believe and why. And it was aimed at answering the skeptic's questions.

Today: We need to aim apologetics first and foremost towards believers, especially young people.

- **Yesterday:** We needed to master facts, data, and history to intellectually prove what we believe is true.

Today: We need to model a concerned and compassionate life-style that proves that what we believe is relevant.

- **Yesterday:** We needed to win the debate.

Today: We need to win an audience.

- **Yesterday:** We communicated on a level playing field that presumed TRUTH was an objective reality.

Today: We communicate on the shifting sands of TRUTH as a subjective reality.

- **Yesterday:** The Church and the culture shared a general knowledge of the Bible.

Today: Both the Church and the world are biblically illiterate.

- **Yesterday:** Committed Christian men and women were admired.

Today: Committed Christian men and women have been called "dangerous."

- **Yesterday:** We could begin with the truth and then express grace.

Today: We must begin with grace in order to share the truth.

- **Yesterday:** The moral climate and the values of major institutions like education, medicine, and the media reinforced our values.

Today: The moral climate of major institutions challenge and ridicule our faith.

◇ The 21st Century is more like the 1st Century so what can we learn from them for our day?

◇ The Answer = 1 Peter 1-3

- The early Church had a living **HOPE**. 1:1-3
- They believed they had an _____. 1:4-6
- We need to be **SOBER** in our thinking. 1:13-16
- We need to have a faith that is rooted in _____ that leads to living a _____ life, which leads to a **FERVENT** love for others. 1:22-23
- Get rid of all _____, get rid of **ANGER**, and stop _____. 2:1-2
- The number one apologetic is your _____. It's a holy life, with an eternal perspective, that's radically loving. 2:11-12