

Introduction: The apologetics approach of the past is not working in today's culture

Rethinking our world:

Since Christians are viewed in a very negative light, the gospel is not viewed as credible

- Church attendance is down
- Bible engagement is down
- There is a moral decline
- Giving is at an all-time low
- Families are fractured
- Teens are abandoning the faith after high school

Rethinking our communication

- **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 toward 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 actually 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 or women were admired.

Today: Committed Christian men or 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.

What this means for you -

To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope... to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you... In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.

1 Peter 1:1-4,6 (NASB)

Why I Believe

(Part 1)

Straight Answers to Honest Questions
about God, the Bible and Christianity

Rethinking Apologetics for the 21st Century

- The early Church had a living _____ . 1 Peter 1:1-3
- They believed they had an _____ . 1 Peter 1:4, 6
- We need to be _____ in our thinking. 1 Peter 1:13
1 Peter 1:14-15
- We need to have a faith that is rooted in _____
that leads to living a _____ life, which leads to a
_____ love for others. 1 Peter 1:22-23
- Get rid of all _____, get rid of _____,
and stop _____ . 1 Peter 2:1-2
- Have lips of _____ and _____ . 1 Peter 2:20-24
- The number one apologetic is your _____. It's a holy 1 Peter 3:8-9
life, with an eternal perspective, that's radically loving.

We are living in a day where what Christians need to be and become are first and foremost godly, loving, kind, and winsome.