

# Apologetics

## 1 Peter 3:15-16

“<sup>15</sup>But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

### What is Apologetics and what does it mean to ‘Apologise’?

- ❖ Not apology in commonly understood British way
- ❖ From Greek *apologia*, used to describe a defence or vindication in the N.T.
- ❖ *Apologia* is used to describe a defence as in a legal defence or making a case
- ❖ Covers a number of disciplines and has a broad application
- ❖ Four main basic ‘method camps’:
  - Classical – emphasis on logic, reason and applying logically sound tests
  - Evidential – Looking at the corroborating evidence and artefacts; e.g. Dead sea scrolls
  - Presuppositionalism – more concerned with what makes evidence evidential and what makes reason reasonable, starting with God as the beginning of all and hence all things come from God and are of God
  - Fideism – (*fide* is Latin for faith) faith and faith alone is the only way to understand the truth of Christianity

### Why should we ‘apologise’ and is it right?

- ❖ We are called to defend our faith and the reason for the joy that is within us
- ❖ It’s a part of the Great Commission given by Jesus Christ to which we are all called (Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-18)
- ❖ It builds our knowledge of the Word and grounds us in the truth of the Bible
- ❖ Apologetics isn’t primarily about arguing the point, but about conversations and explaining, sharing the good news of Christ and His saving grace

### What does Paul mean and is apologetics Biblical?

- ❖ Not an argument or winning the point at all costs, winning the point may cost souls
- ❖ Prayfully and trusting in God respond when asked, but be prepared because warning isn’t part of the package (usually)
- ❖ Not ridicule or abuse, but with ‘...gentleness and respect’
- ❖ Phillipians 1:15-18, Acts 22, Acts 17:22-34, Luke 24:25-27, Acts 2:14-15, Acts 8:30-35
- ❖ So yes it is Biblical

### How do we apply it?

- ❖ Right approach for the right person; not one size fits all
- ❖ Everyday in our lives and in our conversations; as much about how we do it as what we say
- ❖ With gentleness and respect; not ridicule and maliciousness
- ❖ With God, ask for advice, guidance, support and the opportunity and when it comes step out in faith with God and his word on your lips.