

Questions for Growth Group Discussion and Personal Reflection

The Problem of Silence: Winsomely Defending the Gospel in the Marketplace of Ideas

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1 Peter 3:15

There are many challenges to the faith that we experience in our world today. How will we respond to these new challenges?

1. Why are you a Christian? Why do you believe what you do?
2. Limiting the scope of your answer to our own country, what, in your opinion, was the common cultural attitude toward the Christian faith one century ago? What is it today? What do you think has brought the change?
3. Define “apologetics.” Have you ever studied or read books on this topic? What apologetic resources are you familiar with? Which ones do you have?
4. What do you think needs to be done for Christian children to help prepare them for the cultural attitude that will surround them when they are adults (see “Closing” below for three categories for preparation)?
5. What tempts you to be silent about your faith (“unanswerable” question, fear, not wanting to offend, etc)? In light of the weightiness of the issue (salvation, truth), which barrier to speaking or responding is legitimate?
6. “The goal is not to win an argument but to draw a soul toward Christ.” How does this statement influence your response to those who have questions or are actively antagonistic toward the faith?

Closing from 1 Peter 3:15

There are three elements to developing a healthy apologetic.

- Devotional Aspect: Relationship with Christ comes before offering a defense.
- Intellectual Aspect: Are we prepared to defend our faith? Those who attack the faith stand on flimsy ground and we can help them to wrestle with their own position.
- Relational Aspect: We engage all people with gentleness and respect

Which of these three is your weakest today? Which is the strongest?

Close in prayer asking God to help you, your family and your group, grow in all three areas so that you might be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you.

Extra Steps

What can you do as a group to help each member become adept at responding to just one culturally relevant question? What can you do as an individual? What can you do to help prepare a Christian child?

For Next Week:

- Read Romans 12:9-13
- Memorize Romans 8:38-39