

# Introduction to Apologetics

Have you ever had someone say to you, “Prove to me that God exists”? Do you feel like a deer in the headlights? I mean, how do you answer this? Where do you start? Sit back, relax and take a deep breath.

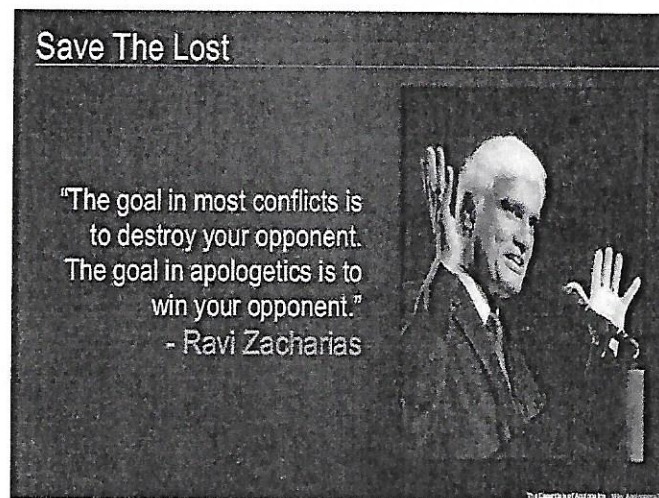
First, let's discuss why we should even answer this question.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15

Isaiah 1:18

So we need to be able to answer some of their questions or at least recommend some resources for them to look at.

Second, try to determine if this person really wants to hear your answer.



FYI: Apologetics is the name of the branch of theology concerned with the defense of Christianity. Luke 12:30

The objective of apologetics is **not to convince a person against their will to become a believer, but to lay evidence in an intelligent way so people can understand what is real & true.** “The heart cannot delight in what the mind rejects as false” – Theologian Clark Pinnock.

What methods can we use to determine if something is true? The 2 major methods are;

-the \_\_\_\_\_ method

-the \_\_\_\_\_ method

The \_\_\_\_\_ method has 3 components to it:

1... \_\_\_\_\_ of an event

2... \_\_\_\_\_ of that event

3...\_\_\_\_\_ of that event

The \_\_\_\_\_ method:

This is used to determine the validity of an event that cannot be repeated. This method is not 100% accurate but depends on proving the reality of an event beyond a REASONABLE doubt, not beyond any doubt.

How would you answer these questions?...

When we're talking about proving the existence of God or how the universe or human beings were created, which method will we use...the scientific or the legal/historical method?

**Definition of Apologetics**

1. *Apologia* → *Apologetics* → Defense
2. Judicial term a lawyer uses not a military term  
*apo = away    logos = word*
3. Giving a Reason or Defense for our Christian faith
4. 9 times used in New Testament (1 Cor 9:3; 2 Cor 7:11; 1 Pet 3:15; Phil 1:7, 16; II Tim 4:16; Acts 25:16; 19:33; 22:1).
5. Apologetics is a branch of Christian theology dealing with verbal defense of Christian faith

What would you say to someone who says, "Prove to me scientifically that God exists"?

What subject area that they want the proof in. Is it in the historical, archaeological, the classical arguments, prophetic probability, philosophical, scientific or sociological/psychological areas?

We have produced a very brief synopsis of each of these areas so that your friend won't be overwhelmed. The goal is not to win an argument but to give them a foundation for believing in Jesus. What they do with it is up to them.

Enjoy,

Dave Maynard

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