

# What is Christian apologetics?

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# Apologetics

- Nothing to do with “apologizing” or being ashamed of our faith
- Quite the opposite!

# Apologetics

- Greek *apologia* = “defense”
- As in “The Apology of Socrates”

# Apologetics

1 Peter 3:15

“Always be prepared to make a defense  
(*apologia*) to anyone who asks you for a  
reason for the hope that is in you...”

# Apologetics

This is not optional.

If God has given you a brain and an education,  
He expects you to use them.

It's not enough to just use the Bible as a  
storybook and leave the hard questions to  
someone else.

# Apologetics

What apologetics cannot do:

- Make people put their faith in Christ
  - Only the Holy Spirit can do that!
- “Prove” the claims of Christ (or anything else) to people who have made up their minds not to believe them
  - You can’t “prove” *anything* to a totally closed mind.

# Apologetics

What apologetics *can* do:

- Show that Christian faith is rational
- Clear away objections, prejudices, and misconceptions
- Remove obstacles (stumblingblocks)

So let's get started!