

Mr. G Video Transcript – Introduction to Apologetics, Part 1

We heard in the previous lesson that apologetics means a defense of the Christian faith, not apologizing for our faith. It may involve gathering and presenting logical or philosophical arguments as well as historical and scientific evidences for the Christian faith, with the goal of showing that Christianity, or the Christian worldview, or Christian beliefs, are reasonable and built on solid evidence. There are several different approaches you see in apologetics, which can all work together: there is a positive presenting the case for Christianity; there is a defense of Christian beliefs against attack or misunderstanding, or misrepresentation; sometimes there is refuting opposing beliefs, showing that they are not true or not reasonable; and there is what we might call persuasion, calling people to consider the fact that Christianity might be true and act on that.

Why is apologetics important? I would give two major reasons; we'll talk about the first one in this lesson. The first reason is that it's helpful for building up our own confidence in the trustworthiness of our beliefs. Why do you believe what you believe? Are our beliefs based on anything more than just our personal experience or just what we've grown up with?

It's OK to ask questions; while we do need to trust God, and take things on faith, and we do believe in the Holy Spirit, and that He leads us and helps us in sometimes intangible ways, that doesn't mean that there isn't also a solid foundation of facts. Ours is a faith based in history. It's OK to question and research and think.

There may come a time when you have questions or doubts and wonder, for example, if the Bible is really trustworthy, if you are just fooling yourself that there is a God, or if science destroys any kind of religious faith. Many young people have never seriously investigated these kinds of questions, and when they go to college and hear professors and other students raising objections to their faith that they've never heard before, and laughing at how silly it is to believe in God and the Bible, they are devastated and many turn from the faith without ever really investigating the issues for themselves.

So, what if you're looking into apologetics questions for yourself, because you yourself have questions or doubts? A few tips: I would say first, don't panic if you come across an issue you don't understand. We said that the most important thing in all this is a relationship with God, so start by asking Him to give you understanding. He promised to give wisdom to those who ask Him (James 1:5) and promises that if we seek, we will find (Matthew 7:7). Then do your research. Look at what the Bible says. Look at what Christian scholars say about the issue. Ask your parents, your pastor, to help. And be patient. Sometimes insight will come right away, sometimes we need to be patient, and sometimes we need to accept that there are some things we cannot fully understand because God is bigger than us. If we could understand everything about Him, He wouldn't be God.