

Do I need Apologetics?

*I'm not very intellectual
It's not my job to change people's minds; God converts their souls
Faith shouldn't need evidence
Trying to "convince" people to be Christian doesn't work anyway*

Critical thinking is an unavoidable part of everyday life, as well as an imperative foundation to Faith. The following resources will introduce Christians to the importance of critical thinking in general, and Apologetics in particular. Through free online videos, podcasts and articles the Christian will learn:

- Why intellectual understanding is foundational to a healthy faith
- What Apologetics is and its benefits for believers and unbelievers alike
- Tips for using Apologetics as part of a balanced Christian evangelism.

Resources are organized in alphabetical order of the author's last name. Those with a star (*) beside them are recommended starting points.

Some good starter websites:

<http://www.bethinking.org.uk/>
<http://www.rzim.org>
<http://www.str.org>

What is the NCAC?

We are a group of scholars and lay-Christians in the Calgary area dedicated to studying and showing that Christianity is intellectually reasonable. Find out more at whyjesus.ca.

Concept 1: 'Tis human to think

Overview

- Don't just leave the critical thinking to "experts."
- God created our minds, and a "whole life" love for God requires us to use them.
- Logic, "argument" and evidence are natural parts of everyday interactions.
- God places a high emphasis on the importance of examining the evidence throughout the Bible.

Self-study resources

Author	Title	Format
William Lane Craig	(*) In intellectual neutral	Audio
William Lane Craig	On being a Christian academic	Audio
Greg Koukl	Is ignorance necessary to preserve faith?	Reading
John Lennox	(*) The Christian use of Mind	Video
John Lennox	Is the Christian Faith against reason?	Video
Glenn Miller	Critically examine everything?	Reading
Glenn Miller	Paul – Apostle with a skeptical bent	Reading
J. P. Moreland	The importance of mind in Christian living	Audio
Ravi Zacharias	(*) The dying art of thinking	Reading
Ravi Zacharias	Opening of the Evangelical Mind (part 1 , part 2)	Audio

Concept 2: The “What” and “Why” of Christianity

Overview

- What is a “worldview?”
- **What is** Christianity (i.e. a Christian worldview)? Study Theology.
- **Why believe** Christianity? Study Apologetics.
- Reasons for studying Apologetics:
 - o To respond to challenges from non-Christians
 - o To give non-Christians something to think about
 - o To strengthen your faith

Self-study resources

Author	Title	Format
William Lane Craig	Christian Apologetics	Video
William Lane Craig	Christian Apologetics: Who needs it?	Audio
John Lennox	What is Apologetics?	Audio
John Lennox	Argumentation: an intellectual game?	Audio
Greg Koukl	Regarding Apologetics, an apology	Reading
Michael Ramsden	(*) The Biblical mandate for Apologetics	Audio
Ravi Zacharias	Christian worldview – an interview with Ravi Zacharias	Reading
Ravi Zacharias	Defending Christianity in secular culture	Reading
Ravi Zacharias	(*) An Apologetic for Apologetics	Reading

Concept 3: So... how to get started?

Overview

- It's a worldview adjustment, not a one-time study session
- Get studying! (and, YES, you can understand this stuff.)
 - o Introduction to Logic
 - o Understand Christianity (doctrines, challenges to, support for)
 - o Understand other worldviews (doctrines, challenges to, support for)
 - o Investigate the evidence (philosophy, science, history, etc)
- People skills: win the person, not the argument.
 - o Ask questions first, give answers later (if needed)
 - o Admit when you are wrong / ignorant
 - o Gently engage a person's emotional "baggage"
 - o Under all circumstances behave with gentleness and respect
- Live an exemplary Christian life

Self-study resources

Author	Title	Format
Greg Koukl	The Goal and Purpose of Apologetic Tactics	Video
Greg Koukl	The Columbo Tactic in Apologetics	Video
Greg Koukl	You do not have to be an expert in Apologetics	Video
Greg Koukl	(*) K-W-C	Reading
John Lennox	(*) Prepare to defend Christianity	Audio
Michael Ramsden	Conversational Apologetics (part 1 , part 2 , part 3 , part 4)	Audio
Ravi Zacharias	(*) Living an Apologetic life	Reading
Ravi Zacharias	Lessons from War in a battle of ideas	Reading
Ravi Zacharias	Apologetics: shadow or reality?	Reading