

Apologetics Guide
Week 1

loving God with our minds.⁶ Apologetics is also a way that we bear witness. If you are using apologetics well, that means you are cultivating excellent relationships, as well as excellent knowledge in doctrine—the two go hand-in-hand.⁷ It is hard to speak to someone about your faith with any credibility if you do not have a good relationship with them.⁸ Trusting a Christian is the first threshold someone who does not believe needs to meet before conversations about Jesus can begin.⁹

If you are a believer, the study of apologetics helps you think through and be able to articulate why you believe, why you are a Christian. That is what we hope to do with this study—to give you tools to be able to articulate your faith.

If you are not a believer, apologetics is a means to understanding why Christians believe as we do. We hope this study will also give you tools to explore this faith and why Christians believe.

As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that God is reconciling all things to God's self through Christ. That means the brokenness in the world—the Syrian civil war, millions of refugees being displaced, institutional racism, environmental crises, broken relationships, environmental degradation, wounded bodies and souls—all of these things will find their answer, their restoration in Christ; in the kingdom of God that will come in its fullness when Jesus returns.

The God of creation seeks you, has made a way for relationship with you. We are made for relationship with one another, and for relationship with God. "Relationships are really exciting. And the most exciting relationship of all is with God."¹⁰ God loves you, wherever you find yourself on the belief spectrum. God loves your family member and friend who does not yet believe—and God desires that your loved one come to know God through Jesus Christ. You

⁶ Luke 10:27; Mark 12:30

⁷ "Meet the Women Apologists,"

⁸ Don Everts and Doug Schaupp, , 29-48.

⁹ Everts & Schaupp, , 29-30.

¹⁰ Nicky Gumbel, Alpha Course, Week 4,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ae2e8Qedw5c&t=449s>.

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Department of Apologetics, hbu.edu
Don Everts and Doug Schaupp,

James E. Taylor,
John Calvin, Institute of the Christian Religion, Book I, ch. 4
"Meet the Women Apologists,"
Nicky Gumbel, Alpha Course, Week 4 (Youtube).
N.T. Wright,
Peter Kreeft & Ronald K. Tacelli,
Timothy Keller,

