

1 Peter 3:13-17
We are all Called to Defend the Faith

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December 5, 2010

Peter's Explanation of Suffering

1 Peter 3:13-17 Giving an Answer: Word/Life
1 Peter 3:18-22 Christ's Suffering: Our Salvation
1 Peter 4:1-6 Preparing To Suffer like Christ
1 Peter 4:7-11 Living With The End In Mind

Believers Are To Fear Only God

1 Peter 3:13-14 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

The Common Theme From Isaiah 8:12-13

Isaiah 7-8 (735 B.C.)
Rezin (Aram) → Attack → Ahaz (Judah)
Pekah (Israel)

1 Peter (62 A.D.)
Asia Minor (Pagans) → Attack → Christians

**God protects His People!
Fear Only God!**

We Must Defend The Faith With Words

1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a **defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence

We Must Defend The Faith With Our Actions

1 Peter 3:16-17 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

Application

1. We must believe that all Christians are called to provide evidence for what we believe.
2. We must believe that the Christian faith is rational and must be preached, taught, and defended in a rational manner.
3. How do we “do” apologetics?

1. All Christians Must Give Evidence

1st Peter 3:15 ...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you

Acts 19:8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.

Jude 1:3b ...I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

2. The Christian Faith Is Rational

Isaiah 41:21-23 Present your case,” the LORD says. “Bring forward your strong *arguments*,” The King of Jacob says. Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former *events*, declare what they were, That we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming; declare the things that are going to come afterward, that we may know that you are gods; (cf. Luke 1:4; 1 John 5:13)

2. The Christian Faith Is Rational

2 Peter 1:2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him...

2 Peter 1:5, 9 ...for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral virtue, and in your moral virtue, knowledge...For he who lacks these is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification

3. How Do We "Do" Apologetics?

➤ Classical apologetics seeks to use the best arguments available to move people to a theistic worldview for the purpose of being able to teach them the Scriptures.

1. Truth exists and can be known.
2. It is true that God exists.
3. The God that exists authored the Bible.
4. We must believe everything in the Bible.

3. How Do We "Do" Apologetics?

It is true that God exists:

1. The universe is an illusion
2. The universe self-created itself
3. The universe is eternal
4. The universe was created by an Eternal Being (God)

The God that exists authored the Bible:

- Isaiah 44:26-45:4 Cyrus called by name
Ezekiel 26:3-12 Tyre's destruction foretold
Daniel 8:20-22 Greek Empire foretold
