**truth or Truth Week #1 (What is Apologetics?)**

What is apologetics?

Apologetics: reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine.

Christian apologetics can be summarized in two parts:

    (a) objective reasons and evidence that Christianity is true (it corresponds to reality) and,

    (b) the communication of that truth to the world.

Why is apologetics important? Why does it matter?

It matters because the Bible says it matters.

1 Peter 3:15:  where the Apostle Peter addressed early Christians in Asia Minor (a Roman province) who were suffering persecution because of their faith in Christ. He writes:

Have no fear of them nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense (apologia) to anyone who asks you for a reason (logos) for the hope that is within you: yet do it with gentleness and respect (ESV).

Apologia (defense)

- verbal defence, speech in defence

  a reasoned statement or argument

Jesus himself used apologetics

Jesus argued with the Pharisees by using a logic technique called "reductio ad absurdum" in Matthew 12.

Deuteronomy 6:5: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Mark 12:30: "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Jesus added “mind”).

 Mind (Greek) - Dianoia:

Mind: the mind as a faculty of understanding, feeling, desiring, understanding

C.S. Lewis: "To be ignorant and simple now - not to be able to meet the enemies on their own ground - would be to throw down our weapons, and to betray our uneducated brethren who have, under God, no defence but us against the intellectual attacks of the heathen. Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered."

What can apologetics do and not do?

-Apologetics is not the Holy Spirit.

“Apologetics is the seasoning, the Gospel is the main course. You do not want too much of the seasoning or it will make the main course insipid. Apologetics does not dominate our message; it undergirds our message. Argument doesn’t save people, but it certainly clears the obstacles so they can take a direct look at the Cross. Support the argument justifiably, but recognize it is Jesus Christ who you need to lift up, and it is the Holy Spirit who brings about change within the human heart. An argument may remove doubt, but only the Holy Spirit can convict of truth.”  — Ravi Zacharias

What is Truth? - Truth is that which corresponds with reality. (Discovered not invented)

Self-refuting statements:

All truth is relative - Is that relative?

There is no truth - Is that true?

You can’t know truth - How do you know that's true?

There are no absolutes - Are you absolutely sure about that?

It’s true for you but not for me - Is that just true for you?

You shouldn’t judge - Why are you judging me?

You should be tolerant - Why won't you tolerate my view?