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Why Apologetics?

The most perfidious way of harming a cause consists of defending it deliberately with faulty arguments.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

We should all strive to find good solid reasons for our beliefs in order to stand firm in the faith and reach the world for Christ because of these three principals found in Scripture.

- God is the source of all logic
 - John 1:1 (NIV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - Greek for “word” is “logos” (G3056) and is used 316 times in the New Testament in a variety of ways.
 - John was speaking to the hearts of both the Jews and the Greeks by appealing to both the history and specific revelation of the Jews and the logic and philosophical framework of the Greeks.
 - Greeks believed that logic is the basis for everything that holds the universe together.
 - Its semantic field extends beyond "word" to notions such as "thought, speech, account, meaning, reason, proportion, principle, standard", or "[logic](#)". In English, the word is the root of "log" (as in record), of "logic," and of the "-ology" suffix (e.g., geology).ⁱ
 - There is no difference between human logic and divine logic
 - Eastern philosophers often accuse westerners of using “western” logic when confronted with the inconsistencies in their beliefs.
 - Good Buddhists will say that everything is an illusion

- However, all Buddhists still seeking after something
 - Seeking implies that something can be known, in part or in whole
- Everyone operates on the basic facts that there are some things that are true and some things that are false
- What we see as “human” reason, and what the Bible cites as the foolishness of the world is simply flawed and incomplete reason. This makes sense when we understand that the source of all reason is God Himself and we are imperfect and flawed by comparison.
- All truth is God’s truth.
Arther F. Holmes
- Faith is reasonable
 - Romans 12:1 (KJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable** service.
 - “Reasonable” is the Greek word “logikos” (G3050)
 - 1 Peter 2:2-3 (NIV) ²Like newborn babies, crave pure (“adolos” or “unadulterated”, G97) spiritual milk , [of the word]so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.
 - Just because it is reasonable doesn’t necessarily follow that we can fully understand it.
 - I don’t fully understand how a computer works.
 - I do know the basics and from that I’m able to build upon what they **should** do
 - Knowing how something works doesn’t necessarily mean it will. This is the essence of faith.
 - Reason does not exclude miracles or mysteryⁱⁱ
 - We need not go to the extreme of saying that miracles are illogical.
 - Miracles may violate the known laws of physics, but all laws of physics break down at some point.
 - Miracles don’t violate the known laws of metaphysics, which is where logic rests.
 - Blind faith is unreasonable and not very wise

- We are told to “test the spirits” in 1 John 4:1 (NIV) Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
 - We can only know false prophets by the proper application of God’s word through the application of logic.
 - While the reasonableness of our faith will not save anyone, it will provide the salt to make them thirst.

- We should be wise
 - Matthew 10:16 (NIV) I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.
 - Logos makes the speaker look prepared and knowledgeable to the audience, enhancing ethos. *Aristotle*
 - The whole of Scripture calls us to be wise so that we will make wise choices
 - Decision Making and the Will of God June 19th 2007 at the Georgia Baptist Center.
 - If we honestly believe that we stand upon the truth, we should be more than willing to question the beliefs we hold so dear.
 - Are we showing the world the wisdom of Christ or just more rhetoric?

ⁱ Logos, Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logos>

ⁱⁱ Miracles or Myths, Stand to Reason: <http://www.str.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=5449>