Apologetics Without the Bruises

Apologetics [uh-pol-uh-jet-iks] “the branch of theology concerned with the defense or proof of Christianity.”

Use apologetics as a _____________, not a sledgehammer.

A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth (2 Timothy 2:24-25).

★ The right kind of questions can be a crowbar that _______open closed minds.

Introducing The 4-1 Defensive Formation¹ (Four questions/One statement)

1. What do you mean by that?
2. How do you know it to be true?
3. What difference has it made in your life?
4. What if you’re wrong?

If they ask you a question you don’t have the answer to say, “I don’t know but I’ll find out.”

★ The wrong kind of attitude can be a sledgehammer that ____________spiritual opportunities.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15:1).

Remember that only Christianity gives a preponderance of ____________on three levels:

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive (Acts 1:2-3).

★ Experiential: “My religion is true because I have experienced something ________.”

★ Autopistic: “My religion is true because it __________to be true.”

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Axiopistic: “My religion is true because it _________ itself to be true.”

**Recognize that there is a __________ more powerful than apologetics.**

*Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you* (Matthew 10:19-20).

**Introducing Soul Apologetics…**

It happens when we are dependent on the Holy Spirit to guide us to the inner core of a person’s soul so that we can gently expose the “_____” behind the “_____” of what they believe.

**What are some of the ways we can use Soul Apologetics?**

• Asking the _______ questions can penetrate someone’s pre-theoretical worldview and help them understand why they believe what they believe.

  Fact: Jesus asked over ______ questions in the Gospels.

• Unleashing the power of the ______________ standard of the 10 Commandments can open a prideful person’s eyes to their deep spiritual need.


• Showing genuine concern for others can cause others to turn to you for spiritual ________ and prayer.

  *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light* (1 Peter 2:9).

**Use Apologetics as the ______ to the “love letter” of the gospel!**

*When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power* (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

¹Source: Bill Jack and Andrew Heister