

# Apologetics

## 1 Peter 3:15

*but set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.*

### ➤ Postmodernism

#### ○ Stats

- 80% of Americans consider themselves spiritual
- 80% believe God created universe
- 2/3 pray every day
- 85% consider themselves Christians
  - Only 45% attend weekly worship services
  - 70% believe in more than one way to salvation
  - 70% of incoming freshmen at Christian colleges say there are no moral absolutes
    - 84% of those collegians are unable to explain basic Christian beliefs

#### ○ Asch Experiment

- Solomon Asch
  - When asked a simple and obvious question, 74% capitulated to the group's answer. The "group" was preselected and instructed to agree on the obviously wrong answer.

#### ○ Spiritual Battle of Beliefs

- **2 Corinthians 10:1-6**
  - *1 Now I, Paul, make a personal appeal to you by the gentleness and graciousness of Christ -- I who am humble among you in person, but bold toward you when absent. 2 I beg you that when I am present I will not need to be bold with the confidence by which I plan to challenge certain people who think we are walking in a fleshly way. 3 For although we are walking in the flesh, we do not wage war in a fleshly way, 4 since the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments 5 and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. 6 And we are ready to punish any disobedience, once your obedience is complete.*
- Our Beliefs determine the way we think, the way we think determines our actions

# Apologetics

- Apologetics
  - Apologia – a defense; to give sound reason for something
- Everyone has questions
  - Addressing the real questions behind the questions
    - Does God exist?
      - Why is the sky blue?
      - Why do bad things happen to good people?
      - How did we come to exist?
    - What kind of God exists?
      - Is He all-knowing?
      - Omni-present?
      - What's He look like?
      - What's His deal with humanity and the world?
    - How may I know this God who exists?
- We Have a Responsibility to Explain and Defend
  - **2 Peter 1:16**
    - *For we did not follow cleverly contrived myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; instead, we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*
  - **Romans 1:4**
    - *and was established as the powerful Son of God by the resurrection from the dead according to the Spirit of holiness.*
  - **Acts 1:3**
    - *After He had suffered, He also presented Himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*