



# APOLOGETICS

T H E C H U R C H O F E L E V E N 2 2

## WHAT IS IT?

Apologetics is the branch of Christian theology devoted to providing rational justification for Christian truth claims or, in other words, defending the faith through systematic argumentation. It is useful in shaping culture, strengthening individual believers and winning non-believers to Christ. It is important not to confuse apologetics with evangelism. It should never be considered a substitute for the presentation of the Gospel. Our calling is to share the Gospel, not our favorite arguments and evidence. It is, however, useful in the answering of objections and questions of the unbeliever.



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THIS TOPIC?

### **Mark 12: 28-30** (NIV)

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

### **Colossians 4:6**

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

### **1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

## WHY, AS CHRISTIANS, DO WE CARE ABOUT THIS TOPIC?

While people don't come to Christ because of arguments, the defense of the Christian faith can help create opportunities to share the gospel. It strengthens our individual belief and can provide a safe environment for people to bring questions and doubts.