

John 8:37-47

Apology Offered

A. Apologetic Mindset

1. Priority of Evangelism – Matt 28:19
 - Our mission is Gospel Evangelism (Col 4:3-4)
 - Apologetics assists where necessary (Col 4:5-6)
2. Always Ready – 1 Pet 3:15
 - Called to be ready (at all times to anyone)
 - Called to respond (when asked / when reviled)
3. Dual Wisdom – Prov 26:4-5
 - Don't Answer – 26:4 (in line with his folly)
 - Do Answer – 26:5 (as his folly deserves)

B. Apologetic Procedure (ex: 8:12-20)

1. Proclaim a Gospel Truth – 8:12
2. Hearer Objects – 8:13
 - a. Exclusivity of the Truth (independent of human reason)
 - b. Authority of the Truth (absolute judge of their own life)
3. Give an Apology – 8:14-18
 - a. State a Truth – 8:18
 - b. Expose the Folly – 8:14
 - Inconsistent (with their own worldview or way of living)
 - Incorrect (ignorance or distorting the truth of Scripture)
 - Inappropriate (rebellion against God's truth)
 - c. Use Remaining Contact Points – 8:17
 - Scripture (divine written truth, i.e., Bible)
 - Conscience (universal morality – its presence, not its codes)
 - Nature (logic, history, science, etc. – facts, not theory)
4. Hearer Reacts – 8:19
 - a. Object
 - b. Divert
 - c. Attack

[Patiently continue 3-4 cycle, until it becomes folly to continue]

5. Release / Warn – 8:19 (Matt 10:14; Acts 4:19, 13:40-41,46-47)
6. Hearer Responds – 8:20 (Acts 17:32-34, 28:23-28)
 - a. Leaves you (8:20)
 - b. Believes you (8:30)
 - c. Grieves you (8:59)

John 8:37-47

C. Apology Offered – 8:37-47

1. Proclaim Gospel Truth – 8:31-32
2. Hearer Objects – 8:33
3. Give an Apology (Answer) – 8:37-38
 - a. Use Common Ground – v. 37a
 - b. Expose the Folly – v. 37b
 - c. State a Truth – v. 38
4. Hearers Object – v. 39a
5. Apology #2 – Expose their Folly – v. 39b-41a
6. Hearers Object – v. 41b
7. Apology #3
 - a. Logic
 - b. Statements of Truth
 - v. 43 – *You are not able to hear My word or understand what I am telling you*
 - v. 44 – *Your father is the devil*
 - v. 44 – *Your will is to do his desires (i.e., slave of sin)*
 - c. v. 45 – Because I tell you the truth, you don't believe me
 - d. v. 46 – 2 Questions (to spur their thinking)
 - e. v. 47 – You are not of God

D. APPLICATIONS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Praxis

1. Role-play an apologetic situation as follows (best to do with another, but can do so by yourself)
 - state a clear Gospel Truth
 - formulate a likely Objection from an unbeliever
 - craft an Apology that exposes the folly of the objection (inconsistent, incorrect, inappropriate) – use Scripture, conscience, and nature as a Contact Point for your defense
2. Continue the role-play...
 - formulate a likely Reaction from the unbeliever (divert, object, attack)
 - craft your Response
3. Keep going until you start to go in circles, or until the unbeliever believes, walks-away, or persecutes...