

Sunday School – 04/30/2023

Apologetic Methods

1 Peter 3:15

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;”

Introduction

1. A biblical philosophy (Colossians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
2. Biblical wisdom
3. The content of apologetics

“...apologetics is a defense of the *Christian* faith. As a Christian defense, we should expect that the *content* of apologetics can substantially overlap with the content of preaching and evangelism. In whatever *mode* of communication, whether preaching, evangelism, or apologetics, it is the gospel of Jesus Christ that has to be our focus.”
(Oliphant, *Covenantal Apologetics*)

Negative vs. positive apologetics

4. The manner of apologetics - “with gentleness and respect”
- I. Classical Apologetics - William Lane Craig (reasonablefaith.org)
 - A. A two step approach
 1. Theistic proof for the existence of a god
 2. Provide evidence showing that the God of the Bible is the best explanation
 - B. Magisterial vs. ministerial function of evidence

II. Evidential Apologetics - Gary R. Habermas (garyhabermas.com)

A. One step approach

B. Common ground - "minimal facts" approach

III. Presuppositional apologetics - K. Scott Oliphant, Greg Bahnsen, John Frame, Jason Lisle

A. Foundational principles

1. Jesus is Lord

2. The myth of neutrality

a) Total depravity

b) All men know God (Romans 1:18-21)

B. The point of contact

C. Objections