

How To Answer A Skeptic

Sermon Summary by Bro. Adrian Rogers

We live in a day of accelerating skepticism, humanism and scientism. We as Christians are going to be ridiculed and made to look ignorant and uneducated because we believe in God. Do we have sound reason for believing what we believe? Are we not worthy of real, honest thought? How do you respond to this skepticism in this day and age in which we live?

The Bible tells us how to respond to skeptics in 1 Peter 3:10-17, especially verse 15 which states, *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man who ask you to give a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”* (As a believer, you must understand what you believe and why we are Christians, and then be able to explain your beliefs humbly, thoughtfully, reasonably, and biblically.)

Often we are told to keep the faith, but not only should we keep it but we need to give it away. If you have no desire to give it away, you ought to give it up, because what you have is not the real thing. Any man that has been born of the spirit of God, has an innate desire to share his faith with others.

There are two things that must be true of you before you are ready to share your faith with anybody. **First, you must be Real.** You are to have a full-hearted, burning, compassionate, overflowing love for God. You are to be a zealot for the Lord Jesus. Yours is to be a full faith, a fearless faith. Don't let anybody intimidate you because you are a Christian. They can hurt you but they cannot harm you, therefore don't be afraid.

Second you must be Ready. When you live a Christian lifestyle, people will start asking questions about you when they see something in you that cannot be explained. They are going to want to know why you believe what you believe and why you act the way you act. Do you know how to respond to a skeptic? There are four basic ideas to remember as you respond to this skeptical age:

- 1) **Forego the Folly of Fools** – Some skeptics are fools, not all but some. In the Bible, fool means someone who is morally depraved, not mentally deficient. Don't argue with someone who shows himself to be a fool. Give him the mind of God; tell him what God says then go your way. In Proverbs 26:4 it says, “answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like unto him.” Don't answer him; don't get in a debate with a fool. You won't be able to do much with these type of people. Also see what Jesus says about this in Mark 6:11.

- 2) **Learn the Limits of Logic** – Logic is a valuable tool but it can only carry you so far. When you get to a chasm that logic can't leap, then faith will have to fly. The logic for God is found in creation and design and universal moral beliefs. It is logical to reason that if we have a creation, we must have a Creator since nothing comes out of nothing. Also logic tells us that if there is design in nature, there must be a Designer; and the more complex the design, the greater the designer. The creation found throughout the earth and universe is immensely complex and organized. The logic of there being universally held beliefs in a moral law shared throughout mankind also says there is a god. If anyone ever comes up to you and says, "Prove there is a god." Be Bold and say, "I can't, but can you prove there is no god?" He'll say he can't either. Then if he says "You just think there is a god because it is just what you believe." You can say, "I believe there is a god and you believe there is no god. I have faith that there is, and you have faith that there isn't." What we as Christians believe is reasonable, but it goes beyond reason.

- 3) **Remember the Resource of Revelation** –If we are to know a god, he is going to have to reveal himself to us. The finite can never understand the infinite, unless the infinite explains himself and reveals himself to the finite. 2 Peter 1:19-21 shows us three things about the word of God: 1) The **Inspiration** of the word of God. The Bible is like no other book – it was inspired by the Holy Spirit. 2) The **Illumination** of the word of God. It shines into our hearts – it enlightens us. It reveals to us what we could not know without it. 3) The **Confirmation** of the word of God. We believe not only because of what any other person has said, but also because of what the Bible has said. The Bible is power whether you believe it or not. It does not matter what we believe; what matters is what is true. Use the Bible because you know it is true.

- 4) **Fortify the Force of Faith** – A Christian with a glowing testimony is worth a library of arguments. Share what Jesus means to you and what God has done for you and how He has changed your life. Let Jesus be real to you. Sanctify God in your heart. Strengthen your faith by staying in contact with God through prayer, reading and listening to His word, and sharing your faith with other believers as well as non-believers. Your faith will be as much caught as it will be taught.

Remember 1 Peter 3:15, *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to everyone who ask you to give a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."*

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