

Appendix_02

Caught Out? Some Guides to Good Apologetics

>>Look here for great links giving quick answers to tough questions >>

Rather than bombard you with a million resources on apologetics, I'll keep this appendix down to a bare minimum that I think will be most helpful. *Why offer this appendix on apologetics at all?* Because loving God and loving others involves using not just our heart, strength, and soul, but also our *mind*. In sharing with others, we need to be prepared with the reason for the hope that lies within, giving good answers to good questions as people genuinely search for how to make sense of their lives (1 Peter 3:15-17). At times this involves challenging common wisdom of our age that blocks people's ears to the Gospel (2 Corinthians 10:5). At other times it involves removing barriers and building bridges, looking for what we may commend in the life and thinking of a spiritual seeker (like Paul with the Areopagus in Acts 17). Even if you aren't the questioning type, love of God and neighbour demands that we grow in our ability to understand the *what* and *why* of Christian belief, so we can share it as a warranted and good gift to those apart from Christ. Unless they *understand* the Gospel, how can it take root and grow (Matthew 13:19).

Web-Sites

www.leestrobels.com

>> Lee Strobel is pretty famous for his "*The Case for ...*" books. But his web-site is also noteworthy, unique in that it's almost exclusively video based. If you're investigating questions of the faith, or wanting to direct friends to helpful 3 minute answers as a conversation starter, then this is a great site to surf.

<http://logos.kbc.org.au/blog/resources/logos-talks/caught-out/>

>> Tough questions always come when they're least expected. They put you on the spot. They make you sweat over your intellectual, ethical, and emotional responses to pressing problems that you know are important—wars, poverty, humanity's origin, God's existence, globalization, climate change, other religions, eternal destiny. When hit with a really difficult question, what could you say? Whether you've got too much to say and don't know where to start, or you have nothing to say and want to run and hide—and even if you aren't a Christian and just want to make sense of what life is really about—then these small group discussion notes are for you. This site has a video of the talk given at Kenmore Baptist Church back in 2009, offering a guide for how you might answer perhaps the top ten questions thrown at Christians today: hypocrisy, God's existence, suffering, science, pluralism, unnecessary, irrelevant, Bible, prayer, and freedom. ***The discussion guide is ideal for small group studies*** to sharpen your understanding of the faith and how to communicate it in everyday language to those sceptical of what we believe. Also, the notes guide you to more reading on each of these ten topics.

Books

The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism; Counterfeit Gods (Tim Keller)

What's So Great About Christianity? (Dinesh D'Souza)

The Case for Christ; The Case for Faith; The Case for a Creator; The Case for the Real Jesus
(Lee Strobel)

Who Made God? And Answers to 100 Other Tough Questions of Faith
(Ravi Zacharias and Norman Geisler)

The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog, 4th ed. (James W. Sire)

Mere Christianity (C. S. Lewis)

Orthodoxy; The Everlasting Man (G. K. Chesterton)

Beyond Opinion: Living the Faith We Defend (edited by Ravi Zacharias)

Bridge-building: Effective Christian Apologetics (Alister McGrath)

The God Who Is There; He Is There and He Is Not Silent (Francis Schaeffer)

Humble Apologetics (John G. Stackhouse Jr.)

God, Actually: Why God Probably Exists, Why Jesus was Probably Divine, and Why the 'Rational' Objections to Religion are Unconvincing (Roy Williams)

New Evidence that Demands a Verdict (Josh McDowell)

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist (Norman Geisler and Frank Turek)

