

LESSON 12: AN APOLOGIST

The Disciple's Answer

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15)

An Apologist

- Ⓞ We are to be ready to give a “defense” (1 Pet. 3:15)
- Ⓞ The word “defense” is translated from the Greek word ***apologian***, from which we get our English word “apology”
- Ⓞ This Greek word, however, does not convey the idea that Christians are to apologize for their faith
- Ⓞ It means to give a verbal defense, or a speech in one’s defense, as in court
- Ⓞ This Greek term is also found in our English word “apologetics,” which is a branch of theology devoted to defending the evidence that supports Christianity

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

1. Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts
 - ☉ We are to give Christ the position of Lord and Master in our hearts
 - ☉ We must believe that His teaching is worth believing, obeying, and defending

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

2. Always be ready

- ⊙ Readiness requires preparation
- ⊙ We are to study the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15)
- ⊙ Prepare for and attend Bible classes
- ⊙ Attend worship services, Gospel Meetings, etc.

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

3. To give a defense

- ☛ From the word of God

- ☛ Psalm 119:160

- ☛ John 17:17

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

4. To everyone who asks you

- ☛ We should welcome and appreciate opportunities to defend the gospel and help others come to a knowledge of the truth
- ☛ However, there are some questions and people who are not deserving of our attention
- ☛ 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; Titus 3:10-11; Matthew 7:6

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

5. A reason for the hope that is in you
 - ☞ The existence of God
 - ☞ The resurrection and deity of Christ
 - ☞ The inspiration of the Bible
 - ☞ Why we believe in Heaven and Hell
 - ☞ What one must do in order to be saved
 - ☞ The purpose and method of baptism
 - ☞ Why we reject denominationalism
 - ☞ Why we do not use instrumental music
 - ☞ Why we partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

6. With the proper attitude

☞ Meekness (Eph. 4:15; Col. 4:6)

☞ Fear (Rom. 14:12)

☞ Maintaining a good conscience (1 Pet. 3:16)