

Session 1 - 12 Reasons to be Ready to Give a Rational Explanation for Our Faith

10/6/18

God reveals himself through Special Revelation (Scripture) and **General Revelation** (Nature) so we should use both.

1. Jesus himself was an **evidentialist** over and over calling those around him to "...believe because of the works (miracles) themselves"
2. **1 Pet. 3:15** calls all Christians to "**Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."
3. In verses such as Matt. 22:37 all Christians are called to "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.**"
4. Christians and those seeking answers are increasingly exposed **online to atheists** and skeptics that are becoming more vocal and aggressive.
5. **75% of Christian youth walk away** from the church in high school and college.
6. The most common reason given for **youth that walk away** is:
 - a. unanswered **questions**
 - b. intellectual **doubt**
 - c. unaddressed **skepticism**
7. Those that think giving what seems to be a rational defense of a theological position isn't effective, look no further than **atheistic 'apologists'** that are effectively misusing rationality to pull students away from their faith.
8. The **Great Commission** calls us to equip and **disciple** Christians...which includes being able to defend our faith.
9. **Colleges and universities** as well as the overall society is becoming increasingly **anti-theistic** so we increasingly need to be ready to explain why theism is more rational.
10. Our testimony is important, but for **those that have intellectual barriers**, being able to rationally explain our faith may remove the barriers to make a person open to the Gospel.
11. The three most common reasons that Christians claim that they are Christians (an experience with God, family/society tradition, improved life) are the same reasons given by other religions and cults, so the **evidential nature of Christianity can stand apart/above** if we are familiar with the evidence.