

A Biblical Worldview

Gender, Singleness, Marriage and Family

Week 1: A Biblical Defense for Our Faith

Introduction

We have dueling world views: a biblical worldview and a secular worldview.

We should stand on God's Word. We should boldly and confidently proclaim the Truth. We should not waver in the face of resistance and backlash from our community. Yet...we must boldly speak truth with gentleness and respect.

There is a massive shift in American Christian Culture to include, use and even embrace a secular worldview on gender identity, gender roles, singleness, marriage and family. We have three general options: (1) recluse from society, (2) embrace society's demands or (3) faithfully proclaim and follow God's Word.

Today, we are going to see how we approach any particular subject is important. God has given us a clear plan on how to engage a secular culture. Not only has God given us clear instructions, Jesus gave us practical examples as well.

1 Peter 3:13-17 (NASB95)

¹³ Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, 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; ¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

How to respond to a secular world according to 1 Peter 3:13-17:

¹³ Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed.

- (1) We must be prepared to face resistance (v. 13-14).
 - a. There is always a possibility of persecution for the believer.
 - b. John 15:18-20

Reflection Questions:

- ❖ What role does your personal relationship with God play in your ability to handle conflict?

And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled

- (2) We must not be intimidated or troubled. (v. 14).
 - a. Courage and bravery are attributes that don't always come easily or naturally. Yet, in Christ, we are called to courageously stand firm on God's Word.
 - b. Ephesians 6:10-11; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 1:27-30

Discussion Question:

- ❖ What scares you the most about standing firm in your faith?

¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts

- (3) We must sanctify Christ as Lord (v. 15).
 - a. Jesus must hold a special place in our hearts, minds and life.
 - b. John 15:5

Discussion Question:

- ❖ What does it practically look like for Jesus to be Lord of your life?

always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you

- (4) We must be ready to make a defense (v. 15).
 - a. Being ready to defend our beliefs begins and ends with God's Word.
 - b. 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119

Discussion Question:

- ❖ What role does God's Word play in you being ready to defend your faith?

yet with gentleness and reverence

- (5) We must respond with gentleness and respect (v. 15).
 - a. While God's Word is necessary for being prepared for a defense; gentleness and respect should characterize how we verbalize our defense.
 - b. Galatians 5:22-23; Mark 2:15-17

Discussion Question:

- ❖ How we approach certain subjects with others matters. Why?

¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

- (6) We must keep a good conscience (v. 16).
 - a. Adrian Rogers once said, "Finding yourself in rough waters? Well, a good conscience is like a warning system that can keep us on course in the rough seas of our lives. If we choose to steer past its waving red flags, then we can expect to become shipwrecked."
 - b. 1 Timothy 1:18-19; Romans 10:17

Discussion Question:

- ❖ Why does having a good/clean conscience so important to the believer?

¹⁷ For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

- (7) We must consider joy to face trials and tribulations (v. 17).
 - a. It's better to suffer for good than to live in peace with evil.
 - b. It is better to suffer for good than to do "Christian Things" the wrong way and being persecuted.
 - c. James 1:2-5

Discussion Question:

- ❖ How and why can trials and tribulations be valuable to our faith?