

Introduction

Biblical Apologetics are different than Christian Apologetics. Both are important and necessary and they each ultimately serve the same purpose (the Glory of God), yet they address different audiences.

Christian Apologetics is the defense of the Faith to those who do not possess a Saving faith in Jesus or even fail to acknowledge the existence of God. Biblical Apologetics are turned toward the Church seeking to correct, strengthen, and refine our understanding of God and everything this would impact.

This manuscript is a Biblical Apologetic to the Church, Her leaders and Her disciples. Striving to understand God is a marathon without end, and fortunately, this run never fails to benefit. In a miniscule way akin to pondering the workings of a fine pocket watch, the complexity and purpose God has shared with us is breathtaking. The boundless and Eternal Mind has graciously undertaken the task of helping the comparatively simple and rebellious see His and our realities in an endeavor to bid us to come back to Him. He beckons us not in a beggarly way but in a Kingly way, perfect and Holy, ever the Standard – He is ***El Elyon***, the Supreme, the God Most High. And, He has graciously explained what to expect of Him.

Contrast this with a naturally fallen view of God, self, and the World, coupled with an unimaginable complacency and even denial by those He chose to retrieve from our pitiful, fallen rebellion. The first Adam was deceived, leaving us in a worse state. The thief, the Enemy, turned from smooth talk to a campaign of open and violent deception in an effort to thwart Eve's seed (**Gen 3:15**) and drag Mankind (cooperatively!) to Hell. These deceptions still prevail upon us, the pitiful and fallen. Yet it is the truth of God's Word alone that might combat this deception and lead us to a Saving understanding and faith.

In the end, the most valuable thing Mankind has is the Truth. The Truth about God, about ourselves, about His expectations, about our failure, about the consequences, and about our Salvific Remedy, Jesus. Without God's Truth there is nowhere to begin, and all would be lost. But by God's Grace, "the truth will make you free." (**John 8:32b**)

Because of this, it is imperative to strive to study and be conformed in the Truth (**Rom 12:2**). The Church exists to know it, teach it and live under it. For this reason, Biblical Apologetics are an essential. And therefore, it is crucial that Church leaders and teachers make careful and diligent effort to get it right.

Unfortunately, this isn't done in the safety of a Spiritual vacuum. Our Enemy is an expert of the Bible and of Human behavior, and his rage continues to swell as his end approaches. In his wicked and hateful efforts to thwart God and deceive Man, he employs countless avenues – and one of the most effective places he strikes is at the foundation of Truth, the teaching Church. Pastors, Elders, leaders, teachers; All are, whether we acknowledge or not, prime targets of misdirection, and so, the saints they shepherd.

This misdirection is seldom an insistent, naked evil but is instead shades of mistruth, seeds that can grow into Biblically unrecognizable teachings that can even make sense to the complacent. Only part of what was spoken to Eve didn't agree with what God had told Adam, yet it was sufficient to result in Adam's change of allegiance and the surrender of his inheritance. Truth is pure, and mixed even with seemingly innocuous alterations, can seem reasonable. The results however can be most substantial.

This is not to say that all Scriptural error is intentional, nor damning. Jesus' Saving Gospel is so clear that a child may understand and be Rescued. Yet, God clearly cares about being correctly represented (**Job 42:7**), and Jesus warned those who would cause others to stumble by teaching incorrectly (**Matt 18:7**). The flock of the Church are rightfully influenced by the people they trust to teach and lead them. Unfortunately, errors in understanding held by the leader can become embraced as erroneous beliefs of the taught. The consequences should cause us to take serious pause.

Therefore, it is in a love for God, His Word, Our Lord, His Church, Her leaders, and the flock I put forward these thoughts as we each strive to understand and closely follow our Lord.

"May the dust of your Rabbi's feet cover your clothing."