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November 3, 2019

1 Peter

Apologetics at the Cross
1 Peter 3:8-17

I. The Church as a Living Apologetic

II. Apologetics at the Cross

“True to the cross of Jesus, Christian persuasion has to be cross-shaped in its manner just as it is cross-centered in its message.”

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SUGGESTED DISCUSSION POINTS FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2019 SERMON

Apologetics at the Cross

1 Peter 3:8-17

What comes to your mind when you think of Apologetics?

Excited? Intimidated? Confused?

Describe what it means that the church is to be a Living Apologetic?

Assess yourself on the following traits. In what areas do you see strength and where do you need to grow? 1. Harmonious 2. Sympathetic 3. Brotherly 4. Kindhearted 5. Humble in Spirit 6. Not returning evil for evil 7. No evil or deceitful speech 8. Pursuing good 9. Seeking and pursuing Peace

How do our interactions within the church affect our witness outside the church?

Compare and Contrast: Apologists at the Cross/Apologists of Glory

By doing good all the time, could we hope to avoid persecution? Look at 2 Tim 3:12.

How does the imperative to 'sanctify Christ as Lord' affect the way in which we defend our faith to others, especially those who are hostile?

What is the difference between giving a defense and being defensive?

Is gentleness and respect your usual demeanor when answering an opposing view?

Discuss the following actions steps from *Apologetics at the Cross*.

1. Listen and take others seriously
2. Avoid falsely representing the other side
3. Resist assuming motive
4. When you can, find points of agreement to affirm
5. Resist focusing on the periphery
6. Avoid being unnecessarily antagonistic
7. The cross is offensive so don't be personally offensive