



Apologetics

Session Three

Using apologetics to remove obstacles to the gospel message.

EQUIP CLASSES

WHY are we commanded to “*always be prepared to offer a defense?*”



Apologetics as the door to the gospel.

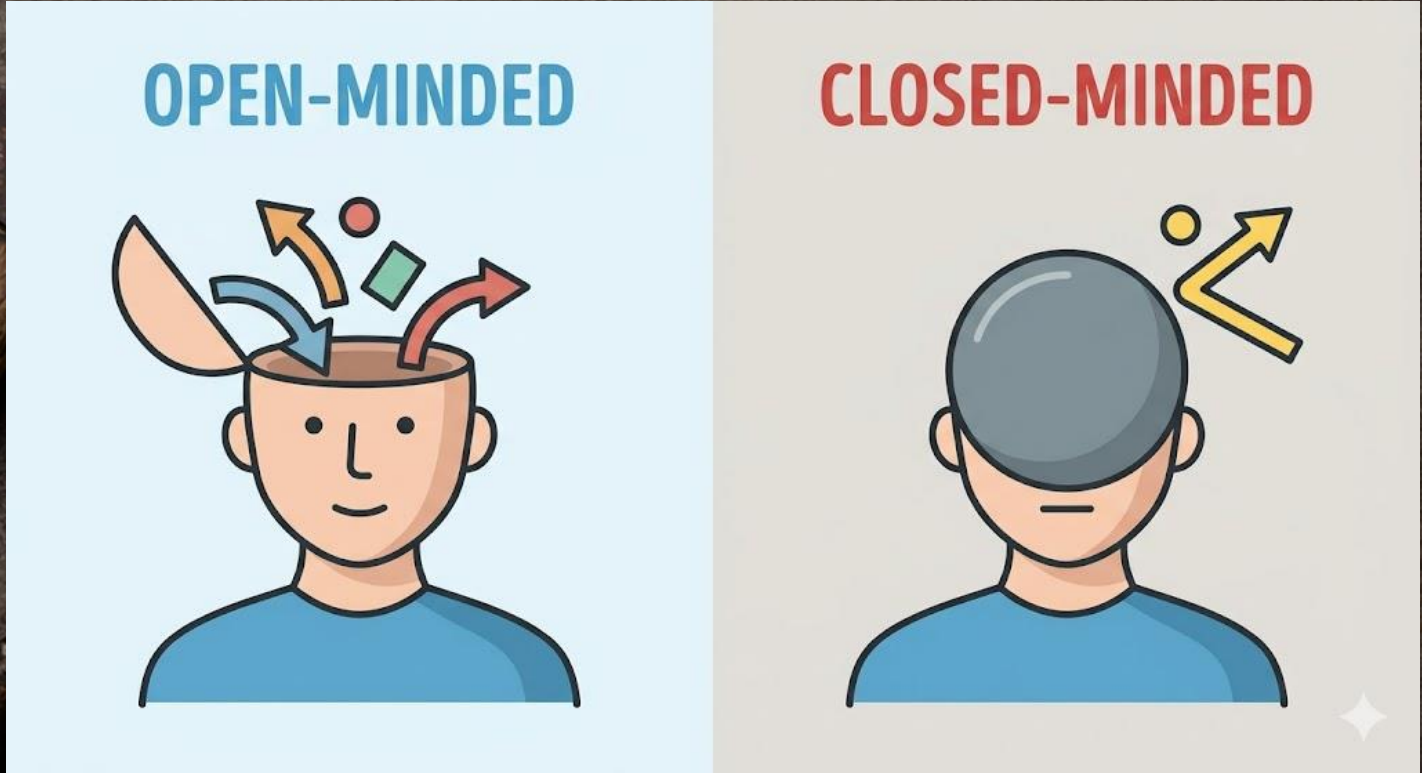
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What are some common objections to the Christian faith?



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Step 1: Determine whether or not the person is genuinely open to the truth of the Christian worldview.




STEP 2: What type of objections are you dealing with?


OBSTACLES TO THE GOSPEL




Spiritual Blindness
Minds are spiritually blinded to truth.



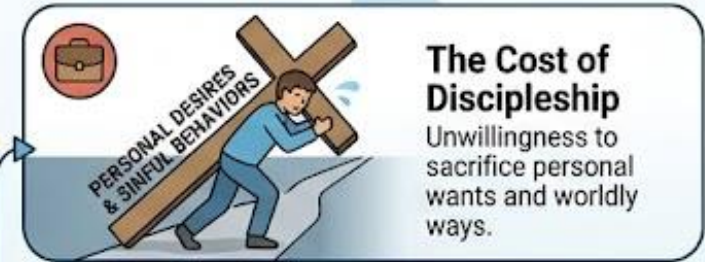
Pride and Self-Righteousness
Seeking salvation by earning it, rather than through free grace.



Intellectual & Philosophical Objections
Skepticism based on lack of evidence and alleged contradictions.



Hypocrisy and Religious Abuse
Bad experiences with Christians causing rejection.



The Cost of Discipleship
Unwillingness to sacrifice personal wants and worldly ways.



Cultural and Social Pressures
Different worldviews and holding to alternative systems.



Lack of Proper Understanding
Misunderstanding or being presented a false version of the Gospel.

A visual summary of biblical themes on resistance to faith.

Step 3: Listen carefully – *analyze* their objection.

What is their **conclusion**? What proposition are they asserting? Is their conclusion clear?

What premises (evidence) are they using to support their conclusion? Are the premises **true**? Are the premises **valid** (do the premises actually support the conclusion?) Are the premises sufficient to support the conclusion?

Is their argument **logical**? Does it contain any formal / informal fallacies?



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A FEW COMMON LOGICAL FALLACIES



Red Herring: Anything used as a distraction from the actual argument.



Straw Man: A deliberate misrepresentation of your proposition is attacked.



Non sequitur: The conclusion does not logically follow from the premise.



Appeal to Silence: Assuming something is true because there is no proposition stating it is false.



Ad Hominem: An attack upon the person instead of their proposition.



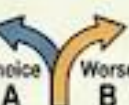
Generalizing: Making universal claims not supported by evidence.



Out of Context: Removing a proposition from its larger context.



Guilt by Association: Arguing a proposition is wrong because it can be associated with some other false idea or group of people.



“What Aboutism” (tu toque): Arguing a proposition is allowable because someone in “your” camp is guilty of the same thing.



False Dichotomy: Claiming that there are only two choices - their choice or a worse option.



Bald Assertion: Making claims that are not supported by any evidence.

BOLO
BE ON THE LOOKOUT

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Practical Application

Some common examples

Tactics

Role play – *what would you say?*

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