

Defending God

Recently I have been listening to several Bible podcasts. It's become part of my routine. I like Mike Winger (The Bible Thinker) and former Zoe Girl band member Alisa Childers. Both of them claim to be Apologists. What does that mean? There are people who love the Bible. Yet, they are not fans of those who bash Christianity and the Bible. These Apologists have a passion to defend the Bible and encourage others to return to the word of God. I could call them Christian explainists. Funny enough their field of passion is not my bag, yet I listen

I'm pretty sure God does not need me to defend Him. Mark 4:11-12 explains my thoughts on Jesus and the word of God "He said to them, *"The secret of God's kingdom has been given to you, but to those who are outside everything comes in parables. 12 This is so that they can look and see but have no insight, and they can hear but not understand. Otherwise, they might turn their lives around and be forgiven."* God will give you understanding of His word. The Spirit of the Lord will reside within you and search the depths of God for knowledge and understanding. In many ways there are two types of listeners: those who don't want to know God and those who might be open. I do feel there are two types of Apologists. Those who argue theology and those who are searching for people who might be open to God. Can we really explain the Bible?

I suppose I am an apologist because I want to help people understand God. Is it my role? I thought the Spirit has that job? Jesus said in John 6:44 *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."* I use that verse as a guideline. Who is God drawing towards me? I should help explain the Bible to them. Yet, should I argue theological points? Should I defend God's word? People that love to argue the Bible always turn to easy arguing points. Why does God allow evil? Why does God let children die?

They love to pronounce that a loving God would not send people to hell. What am I to do with those who want to confront God?

What does God have to say? 1 Corinthians 4:5 *“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”* In God’s time He will draw you to Himself. Is it by knowledge or by death? They say that God is pure love. He is always searching and drawing people to be near Him. Yet, we also have a nature that wants to resist God. Apologists sit in-between. They are reasoning God to unbelievers. Yet, they also defend difficult passages. I suppose they are modern day prophets.

When God enters your life everything changes. Your understanding of the Bible changes. The view of church and Christian things change. I remember those early days. It was horrifying and stunning. Horrifying because all of a sudden, I knew so little. Then we are stunned because God provides clarity to the world around us. The Big Bang and Darwin become ridicules. The Bible becomes reasonable. It literally changed for me in the twinkling of an eye. Yet, this other thing happened. I began to talk about God. I wanted to defend my new faith. That did not sit well with family and friends.

Over the years I have grown in my knowledge of God and the Bible. I get church and Christian ministry. There is; however, so much more to learn. The Christian world is so big that you could never know it all. I was stunned at how little I knew before. How little I was willing to know. The unbeliever needs to keep their grasp of understanding in a very small manageable box. Why? It’s because if the great wide open were to be released in your head and heart, you

might realize your very small. That you're not as smart as you thought you were. We can learn from God in small doses.

That leaves me with apologists. They gain wisdom and understanding from God. Some of them feel the need to share and argue. The problem is in understanding. In our time on earth, we get just a glimpse of who and what God is. There are passages in the Bible we will never fully understand. God is love! It's true but a generic understanding. God is powerful! Isn't a God supposed to be powerful? The Book of Revelation tries to explain future events by describing iron things. Incomprehensible things in their day. We see the words of God and sometimes it looks odd. I have felt His work inside of me. Heaven and Gods kingdom has touched me. It's brought about radical change. Explain it?

Here is my best shot. God is Spirit. Yet, He is able to become physical. God is outside of time, yet He works within time too. God loves but He does get angry. We will die but we will also live. The Christian world is not definable for the most part. All we really understand is that God is God and we are not Him. He is that iron thingy. Explainable by frail human terms. I suppose an apologist has their place. Yet, confronting unbelievers is futile if God does not open their minds and draw them to Himself. To them, God is just what they want to believe, not what He really is. I think that to Christians it's similar. God is what we hope He is. Is He in either case?