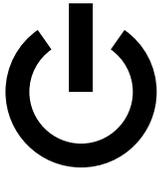


Title: Q & A Panel on Apologetics w/ Randy Smith, Tim Sprankle, Cory Murphy

Key Verses: Genesis 1-2; Exodus 34:6; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Peter 3:15-16

Summary: God's Word stands up against our world's big questions.



Power Up: Take a moment to prepare

The panelists describe apologetics as a defense of Christian belief without being defensive. Why does this distinction matter?



Replay: Take some time to watch

Note the six questions the panel addressed **1)** How do I defend Christianity to a Muslim? **2)** How does the Bible interact with science? **3)** How do I reconcile the wrathful God of the OT with the gracious God of the NT? **4)** What resources help me with apologetics? **5)** What do I make of comparative religion? **6)** What big faith questions remain?



Comment: Take some time to talk

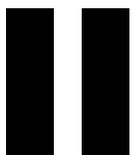
Tim stressed an “approach” to apologetics is more important than having all the answers. ***What does a healthy approach look like?***

Randy points out a few strategies Muslims have when talking with Christians. ***What are they? What should Christians know about Islam?***

“Today our problem is not with science, it’s with philosophers wearing lab coats making scientific claims,” Randy argues. ***What does this mean and why does it matter? What does the Bible clearly teach about creation?***

Why won’t Tim accept the caricature of a God of wrath in the OT?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-9. What does this teach about the resurrection? What makes the resurrection so critical to Christianity?



Pause: Take a moment to pray

Thank God for the trustworthiness of His Word. Ask Him for growing confidence in your understanding of your beliefs. Ask Him for opportunities to share reasons for your hope in Jesus whenever people ask.



Take Action: Take a step forward

Tim and Cory mentioned helpful resources to study apologetics in further detail. Consider reading a copy of *More Than a Carpenter* (Josh McDowell), *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (Sean & Josh McDowell), *A New Kind of Apologist* (Sean McDowell) or *Tactics* (Gregory Koukl).

Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Apologetics Panel

QUESTION 1: *How do I defend my Christian faith with a Muslim friend?*

Tim: The word “apology” stands for defense, not to apologize for what we believe... Our faith is reasonable... We don’t have the burden of proof.

Randy: People are moved when they see authenticity, integrity, and love... If you’re not going to be a friend, your answers sound like defensiveness, not a defense.

There’s a confidence that comes from knowing the end of the game. Look at the last page of the Bible: Jesus wins. Relax. Don’t be defensive.

Islam: 7th century happenings/teachings of Muhamad in Quran and Hadith. Split 50 years after Mohammed: Suni and Shite. Muslims like to focus on our difference without acknowledging theirs... You can’t translate Quran (from Arabic) or criticize it.

QUESTION 2: *How old is the earth? What happened to dinosaurs? How do we defend what we believe about Creation?*

Tim: When Moses wrote the Pentateuch, he was writing to an audience ... wrestling with their origin stories. In comparison to the ANE, Moses gives a different story. There is one God. We have to be careful. He’s not writing to 21st century people in a scientific age...

Randy: All the great philosophers drew a line between philosophy and science.

“Why would people make up a God, fail Him, and then feel guilt... That’s just plain stupid!”

“God starts the clock in Genesis 1:14.”

“When you’re reading Scripture you’re not reading an exact definition of God, you’re reading God explaining himself in language you can understand.”

Isaiah 50:7

QUESTION 3: *How do we reconcile the wrathful God of the OT with the peaceful God of the NT?*

Tim: Maricon from the 2nd Century would cut out references to the God of the OT.

Exodus 34:6 – God is gracious and compassionate. An OT refrain (Jonah 4; Joel 2; Ps. 145)

“Sometimes God’s severe mercy is God quickly taking our lives rather than letting us suffer for 70 years in our sin. [Read Rom. 1:18ff.]”

Randy: “Have you read the Gospel of John? Jesus is terrifying sometime. This gentle Hallmark Jesus who looks like Mr. Rogers sometimes isn’t in the gospel.”

QUESTION 5: *What do you make of alternative manuscript evidence?*

Randy: “Getting off the ark, everyone knew God. Some decided not to tell their kids. It’s not God’s fault [people don’t know Him].”