

Grace Notes

A Logical Defense

2.02.10



***Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.
(1 Peter 3:15; Amplified)***

It was Saturday morning. My phone rang. The conversation went like this:

Me: Hello?

Them: Hello, my name is (can't remember their name). I'm a neighbor of yours.

Me: Oh, ok. What can I do for you?

Them: Oh, I just wanted to let you know that I teach Bible lessons and I have some spots available.

Me: I'm sorry. What did you just say?

Them: (They repeated their statement)

Me: Have I ever met you?

Them: No, I don't believe so.

Me: How did you get my name & number?

Them: The phone book.

Me: You mean you're just going through the phonebook and calling people?

Them: Yes.

Me: Are you associated with a church or organization?

Them: Why yes. I'm a Jehovah's Witness.

Me: Ah. Let me save you some time. I'm a born-again believer in Jesus Christ. And I can tell you right now that you and I will strongly disagree on tenets of our faith.

Them: (nervously chuckling) Oh ok. Bye. (They abruptly hung up.)

Room here does not permit me to offer a lengthy discourse on apologetics (Greek: "apologia" i.e. defending our faith.) In its simplest form, the differences between evangelical Christian faith and Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, etc., boil down to two primary tenets: ***the deity of Jesus Christ*** (that Jesus is, Himself, God), and ***what is required for salvation***. For evangelical Christians, our salvation is based on faith *alone* in the redeeming work of Christ on the cross. "Sola fide" [faith alone!] was one of the five cries of the *Protestant Reformation*. Salvation is therefore a *gift* and not something we can *earn* (*Eph. 2:8-9*.) Cults typically *add* requirements thereby cheapening or altogether eliminating Christ's death & resurrection. Bottom line—when Christ is not accurately represented as who the Bible says He is (GOD & Perfect Atoning Sacrifice) everything begins to unravel.

It's no wonder Jesus asked His disciples, "*But who do you think that I am?*" (*Matt. 15:16*) Everything rises or falls with our answer to that single question. "*In Him,*" Paul wrote, "*all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form.*" (*Col. 2:9*)

Being ready to defend your faith isn't merely good advice. It's a biblical command in 1 Peter 3:15. Who knows? Your name may be next in the phonebook.



2 Good Resources:

- *A Ready Defense* by Josh McDowell, 1992
- *Encyclopedia of Cults & New Religions* by Ankerberg & Weldon, 1999

Soli Deo Gloria, Nick