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1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

August 19, 2023

Why we defend our faith

Contact Us

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Links

Email

Website

Facebook

Previous Lessons

Foster Care Teens

Personal Care Items

We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verse

1 Peter 3:15

Sunday



Why we defend our faith

Last Sunday, we talked about why we should defend our faith. As we progress through High school, College, and even beyond, we will encounter many others who hate, misunderstand, or mischaracterize, Christians. Some purposefully but most simply from ignorance of the Christian faith. We looked at why it's important for us to know why we believe what we do and why we should defend our faith from the many misconceptions in the world.

As Christians, we are called to more than just believe in Jesus and sit in Church on Sundays. Jesus calls us to lead others to God's Saving Grace. We looked at **1 Peter 3:15** to see that we should always be prepared to give answers about our faith to everyone who asks.

We said, that's fine but what if they're not asking? What's wrong with just letting others believe and say whatever they like about Christians? We know what we believe and we know we're saved. What's wrong with just ignoring what others say about Christians?

We then looked at a long list of some example

15 But in your hearts
revere Christ as
Lord. Always be
prepared to give
an answer to
everyone who asks
you to give the
reason for the hope
that you have. But
do this with
gentleness and
respect,

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misconceptions and false statements commonly made about Christians and Christianity.

We said that some of these come from simple misinterpretations or taking scripture out of context. But, many more come from witnessing the actual behavior and actions of the very people who call themselves Christians.

The problem is that as Christians, we are set apart from the world but when these false statements are repeated long enough, people start to believe that they're true. Then they begin to believe that Christians are no different (or are worse) than anyone else in the world so why should they listen to you or even bother believing in Jesus? In order to "make disciples of all nations" (**Matthew 28:19-20**) we need to let others know the truth.

But, arguing with them, fighting with them, threatening them, or yelling at them from street corners (or on social media) is definitely not the way to do it. Like **1 Peter 3:15** says, we should always do it "**with gentleness and respect.**"

Engaging with non-believers requires patience, love, and understanding. We can't expect non-Christians to think like or act like Christians because they're not. We also can't expect them to understand things like Grace, or Mercy, or Salvation, etc. so we need to speak in simple terms that everyone understands at whatever level they are currently at.

When speaking with non-Christians about your faith, it's not about telling them that their way is wrong but by showing them how your way is the true way and how it positively affects your life today.

Always be yourself and speak from your heart asking the Holy Spirit for guidance on the right words to say or the right actions to take.

Don't expect to change anyone's belief, that's not your job. Your job is only to plant the seeds that can lead others to Jesus through the power of God.

We then went through a few possible scenarios of defending our faith with sample responses, planting seeds in love and with respect.

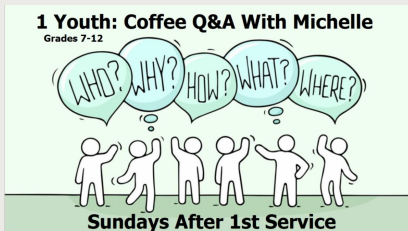
Many of the misconceptions against Christians come from others seeing "Christians" actual behavior.

Remember: We represent God on Earth. We

misrepresent God when we wear His name but not His character.

End of Summer Pizza Party!

Friday, September 15th @6:30pm



Coffee Q&A with Michelle after 1st service **Every Sunday!**

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, after 1st service, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.

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