

CULTURE ~~WARS~~ ENGAGEMENT

Our goal is be equipped to effectively love God and love others in an ever-increasingly counter Christian culture.

Christian Apologetics

The attempt, in an attitude of humility and respect, to:

- *Commend* the truthfulness of our essential Christian beliefs to individuals and groups within our culture.
- *Defend* the Christian faith from misconceptions, arguments and objections that are raised by individuals and groups within our culture.

Assumptions:

1. We live in a fallen world populated with broken and sinful people who are being guided by ungodly and deceitful philosophies. (Rom 1:18-32)
2. Our culture has rejected the concept of absolute truth and embraced relativism. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Absolute Truth Relative Truth

Objective Subjective

Universal Localized

Constant Flexible

Isaiah 45:18-19

For this is what the Lord says— he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: “I am the Lord, and there is no other. ¹⁹ I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob’s descendants, ‘Seek me in vain.’ I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right.”

3. The lifestyles, standards, and actions of our culture reflect the godless value system that the culture has embraced.

Culture War:

- Fight and debate between polarized groups over value, moral, and truth issues
- Fueled by outrage
- Choose to strike back as opposed to turning the other cheek
- Seek to defeat, destroy, or humiliate the opposition

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:18

Cultural Engagement:

- Oppose the evils of society in order to be salt and light
- Choose not only a truthful position, but a graceful tone
- Seek the rescue of our opponents not their ruin
- Desire to convert our opponents instead of destroying them

We are not at war *with* our ideological opponents—we are at war *for* them.

1 Peter 3:15

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.

“True tolerance involves treating with integrity and humility someone whose opinions I believe to be untrue and invalid... Therefore, to be a tolerant Christian doesn't mean accepting contrary views as valid but treating with grace and kindness those with whom you disagree.” -Dr. Alistair Begg

Romans 12:17-21

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.