

"BE READY TO ANSWER"

Part 1

Int.

1. Aim: To show how we must give an answer to questions of what we believe.
2. 1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"
 - a. Sanctify = purify, set apart, consecrate
 - b. The Lord God = ASV "Christ as Lord" - authority - controller
 - c. Ready to Answer
 - i. Constant - being ready always - prepared
 - ii. Answer = make defense - be ready to explain
 - d. Every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is within you
 - i. Reason - account, cause doctrine
 - ii. Hope - expectation, confidence, faith
 - iii. Tell why we rely on Christ and hope for the best at the end of the world.
 - e. With meekness and fear
 - i. Reason and logic in answering
 - ii. Not with arrogance & pride but with that attitude that is free from scorn, bitterness
 - iii. In fear of God and the Judgment
3. Here are some questions that people ask !
 - a. Sometimes in friendly setting - other times it may not be so friendly
 - b. Must not be ashamed of the truth nor afraid to discuss religious matters.

Discussion

I. SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS

A. Avoid these

1. Do not get angry - do not get into an argument
2. Have a Christ-like attitude at all times
3. Do not be ugly and mean because someone does not agree with you
4. Eph. 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love"
5. Never refuse to talk about your beliefs - use this as an opportunity for good.

B. Do these

1. Instead of saying "I believe" or "We believe" say "The Bible teaches.
2. Then have them read the Bible for themselves
3. If you do not know the answer tell the person that you will study it and find the answer.
4. Remember that our purpose is not to win arguments but to win souls with the truth of the gospel.

II. QUESTIONS WE ARE OFTEN ASKED

A. Why do you all have elders ?

1. The way they will ask this question is: "Who is your pastor?" Then you can explain God's plan of church organization.
2. Most churches do not have the organization that is taught in the N.T.
3. They have a pastor system - one man is the main leader - called a pastor - then they will have deacons, presbyters, etc.
4. Answer them by showing what the N.T. teaches:
 - a. Each congregation is to have elders and deacons - Phil. 1:1 Bishops and deacons
 - b. The terms for elders - elders, overseers, bishops, pastors, shepherds
 - c. Acts 20:17 & 28 Elders and overseers
 - d. 1 Tim. 3:1-13 - qualifications for Bishops and Deacons
 - e. Titus 1:5-11 - qualifications for Bishops or elders
 - f. Eph. 4:11 - Pastors = same as elders or bishops
 - g. They had a plurality of elders not just one
 - h. Each church is self governing - no centralized control on earth
 - i. Deacons are to serve and assist the elders in the work of the church
5. Heb. 13:17

B. Why do you all not use instrumental Music ?

1. This is probably one of the most asked questions by other people - they all use it and do not understand why we do not. They will say: "Why do you all not have music in your church?"
2. Here is one way to answer:
 - a. We do have music in our church worship. It is vocal music.
 - b. In our worship we must do what God has told us to do. - John 4:24
 - (1) Spirit = correct attitude, sincere
 - (2) Truth = correct action, what God has said to do
 - c. Col. 3:16 Eph. 5:19
 - d. There is no authority for instruments -
 - e. But they will say "I like it" - answer - but what does God Like ?
3. We cannot use instruments because there is not a verse in the N.T. that tells us to use it in our worship !
 - a. But they will answer by saying that there were instruments in the O.T.
 - b. Remind them that we are not living under the laws of the O.T.
 - (1) We are not to build an ark when it starts raining
 - (2) None of the religious folks offer animal sacrifices
 - c. In the Greek New Testament, when the worship of the church is associated with music, only singing is mentioned,
 - d. We use singing in worship because God tells us to sing!
 - e. There is not a single example of an instrument being used in worship in the church of the N.T.

C. "Oh you are the group that believes baptism is necessary for Salvation".

1. How do you answer? Say a polite and kind "Yes".
2. We believe that the teachings of the NT. clearly explain that baptism is necessary for our sins to be forgiven
 - a. 1 Pet. 3:21
 - b. Mark 16:16
 - c. Acts 2:38
3. Baptism is not the only requirement - not water salvation - but it is the final step to become a Christian.
4. III. Combination lock - 3,7, 2,9 = combination followed and it opens. B.R.C.B=S

D. What about Speaking in Tongues?

1. Some religious groups claim that they have the miraculous gift of speaking in other tongues.
2. The NT. teaches that these were to cease
 - a. 1 Cor. 13:8 "they shall cease"
 - b. The gifts could only be given by someone who had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit - Acts 8:5-22 v.18 - could not be passed to another person by this person
 - c. The apostles [Acts 2] and Cornelius [Acts 10] and Paul [Acts 9] are the only ones who received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit,
 - d. Since all of these men lived in the first century we do not have any way of receiving this gift of speaking in tongues.
3. The ones who claim this gift are only making sounds - not another language

Conclusion

1. I Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"
2. Some people will not give an answer - say it takes too long - or you would mis-understand - Be ready Always - To give an answer
3. Bro. N.B. Hardeman would say that he could state his convictions on any subject on a postcard and still have room to ask how the family was doing.
4. Some will not answer because they do not want others to know what they believe. God knows - we must not be ashamed of the truth!!!

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday morning May 23, 2010
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