



Defending the Gospel

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

- Galatians 1:6-9

“So, if Christianity is such an inessential add-on, why become a Christian? I am not religious, so it is not my place to dictate to Christians what they should and should not believe. Still, if someone has a faith worth following, I feel that their beliefs should make me feel uncomfortable for not doing so. If they share 90% of my lifestyle and values, then there is nothing especially inspiring about them. Instead of making me want to become more like them, it looks very much as if they want to become more like me.”

- Ben Sixsmith

Defending the Gospel from False Teachers and False Living

From the very beginning of the Church, there have been ways the gospel has been twisted, misused, and corrupted by other ideologies and worldviews. Even in the time of Jesus, there were false teachers leading people astray and keeping them from the worship of the one true God.

The example we see from the life of Christ and from Paul to the churches in Galatia, however, is one where we defend the gospel by deconstructing what is corrupted and building something back more beautiful in its place.

There is no place for tolerating or putting up with anyone co-opting what is true about God, how to be right with Him, what is true about the gospel - and trying to syncretize it with their own perspectives and viewpoints and beliefs - no matter how small the false teachings might be - it will ruin the entire thing.

Defending the Gospel

Take 20-30 minutes to get alone with God ask the Holy Spirit to be present with you as you work through this guide, defending the gospel in your world, city, and heart.

1. Write down the prevailing viewpoints and ideologies.

Take a few minutes, to write down below the prevailing moral viewpoints, ideologies, or worldviews happening in each of these spaces:

World:

City:

Your Heart:

2. Search the Scriptures.

Next, spend time searching the Scriptures on these various topics. Note with each one what is in line with the Scriptures and what is against the Scriptures.

3. Deal with the differences.

Where there are areas of the world, your city, or your heart that are against the Bible, take time to pray and offer these up to the Lord, asking Him to work to change these things.

4. Embrace the Invitation of Jesus.

Spend the next few moments in prayer pondering these questions with the Spirit:

What are the ways I am drawn to shape my life more like my city than the ways of Jesus?

How is Jesus inviting me to defend the gospel in the world, my city, and my heart?

What are steps I can take to reconstruct a more beautiful church in the future?

RESOURCES

The following are recommended resources if you would like to journey further into this practice:

- **Before You Lose Your Faith** by The Gospel Coalition
- **After Doubt** by AJ Swoboda