

OIKOS APOLOGETICS

Connecting relationship, lifestyle, and being ready to give an answer.

MARK MITTELBERG

Foreword by Lee Strobel

CONTAGIOUS FAITH



Discover Your Natural Style
for Sharing Jesus with Others

OIKOS APOLOGETICS

Connecting relationship, lifestyle, and being ready to give an answer.

THE QUESTION OF “HOUSEHOLD”

- Peter goes to Caesarea
 - Acts 10:24 “Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.”
- Peter returns to Jerusalem to report
 - Acts 11:14 “... he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.”

THE QUESTION OF “HOUSEHOLD”

- Other examples
 - Acts 16:14-15 Lydia opened her heart ... she and her household were baptized.
 - Acts 16:31 (Jailer) “believe... you will be saved ... and your household”

THE QUESTION OF “HOUSEHOLD”

- Deut 12:7-12
 - Sons, daughters, servants, Levites

THE DEFINITION OF “HOUSEHOLD”

- Oikos
 - Classical: House, dwelling
 - Particular: those bound together by sharing the same dwelling place
 - Broad: family, clan, tribe (Matt 10:6)

NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES

- Your “oikos” is your priority (Jude’s “some” and “others”)
 - Levi: Mark 2:14-15
 - Demoniac: Mark 5:18-19
 - Andrew: John 1:40-41
 - Philip: John 1:44-45
 - A healed son: John 4:50-53
 - Crispus: Acts 18:8

NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES

- The power of a transformed life
 - 2 Cor 5:17 “new creation”
 - Examples of transformed life from 1 Peter
 - 1:15 “be holy”
 - 1:22 “love one another”
 - 2:1-2 “long for the Word”
 - 2:11 “abstain from fleshly lusts”
 - 4:4 “they (your oikos) are surprised (because of the change in you) and they malign you...”

PRINCIPLE OF AFFIRMATION

- “Affirmation of the gospel is a process of modeling and explaining the Christian message” (*Evangelism as a Lifestyle, Jim Petersen, 1980*)
- *What is the overriding theme of the Epistles? Proclamation or affirmation (lifestyle)?*

PRINCIPLE OF AFFIRMATION

- Paul
 - *Rom 12:17-21; Ch 13*
 - *Eph 4 - 6*
 - *Col 3 & 4*
 - *Phil 2:14-16a*
 - *1 Thes 1:5; 4:11-12*
 - *1 Tim 3:7*
 - *Titus 2:1-10 (note vv 2, 5, 8)*

PRINCIPLE OF AFFIRMATION

- 1 Peter
 - 2:1-2 ... long for the Word
 - 2:9-10 ... proclaim His excellencies
 - 2:12 “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

PRINCIPLE OF AFFIRMATION

- 1 Peter
 - 3:8-16 “To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead . . . ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled . . .

PRINCIPLE OF AFFIRMATION

- 1 Peter
 - ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts (lifestyle), always *being* ready to make a defense (proclamation) to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you (the change they see), yet with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

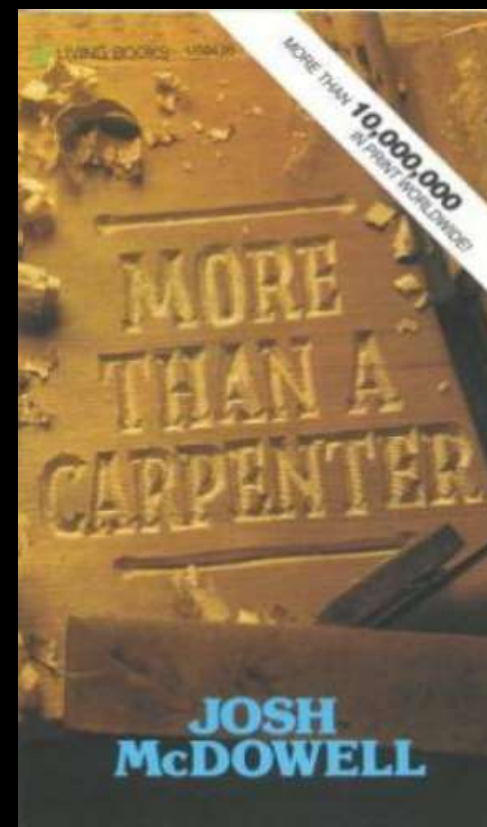
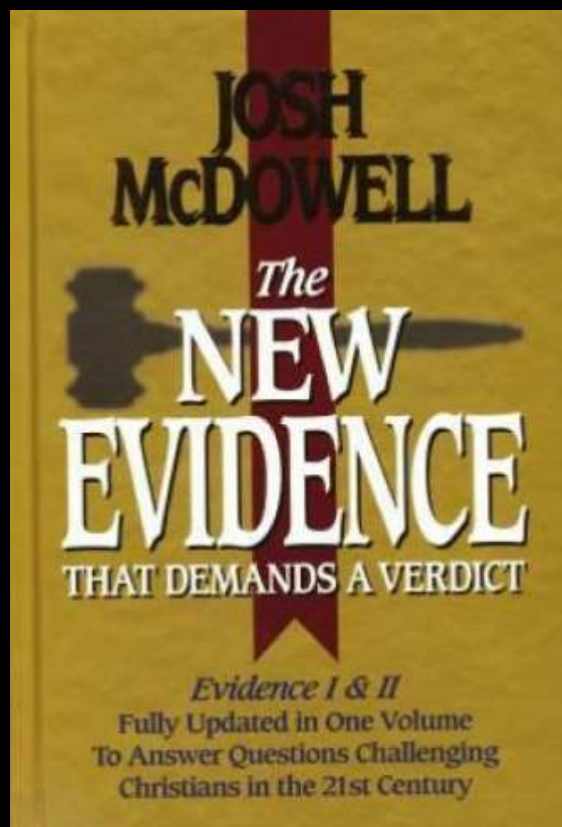
PRINCIPLE OF AFFIRMATION

SUMMARY: Evangelism involves both proclamation and affirmation.

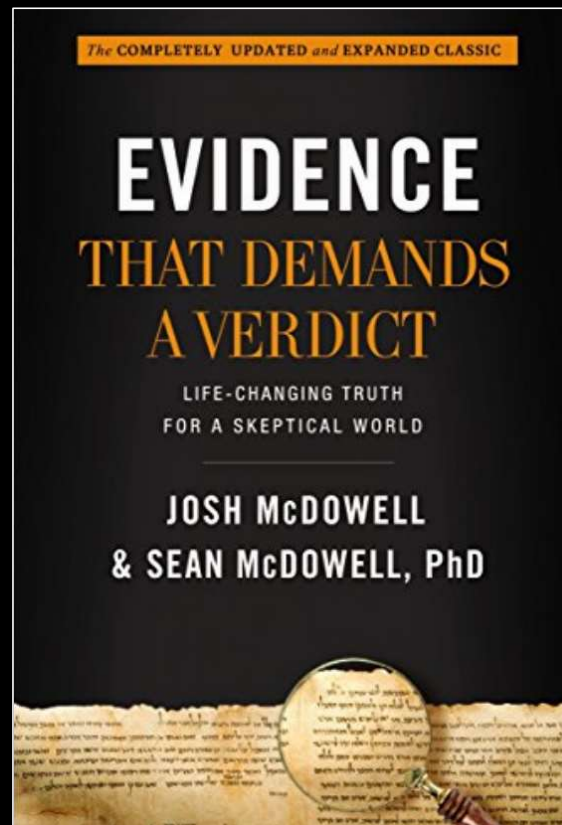
APPLICATION TO “APOLOGETICS”



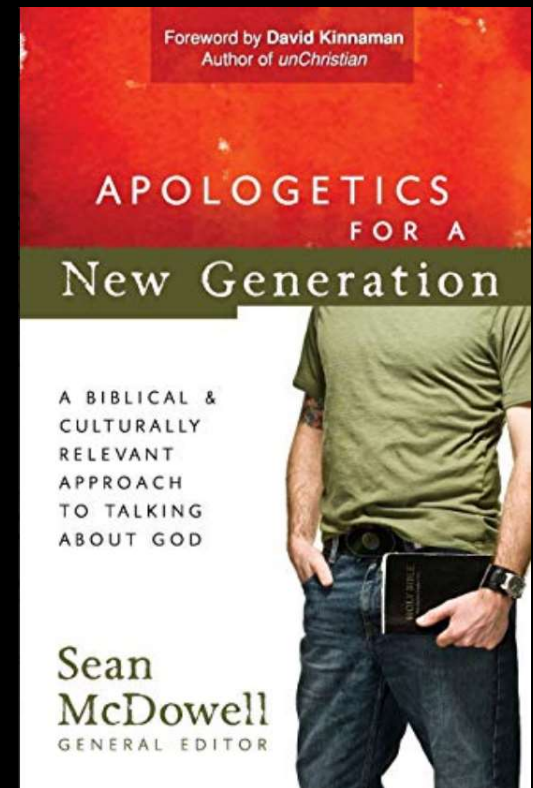
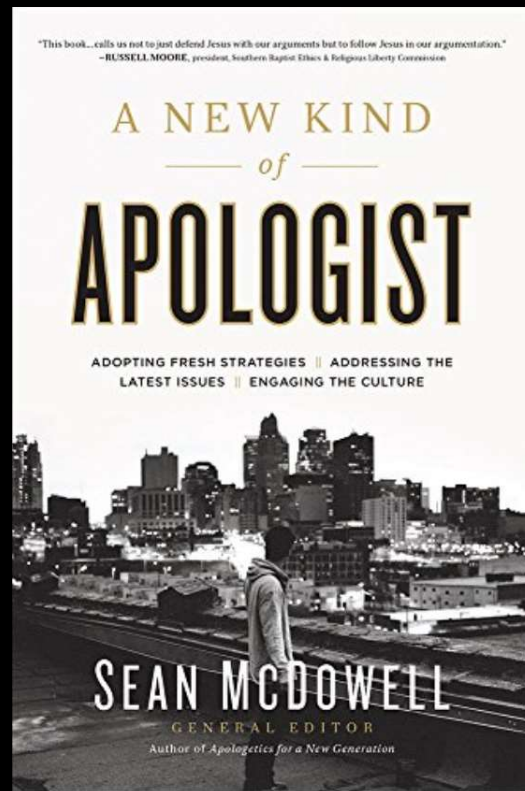
Josh McDowell



APPLICATION TO “APOLOGETICS”



APPLICATION TO “APOLOGETICS”



PRINCIPLES FROM “APOLOGETICS FOR A NEW GENERATION”

- Nearly half of young non-Christians have a negative view of evangelicals
 - To change this, Christians must build meaningful, genuine relationships with non-Christians and live out their faith consistently.

PRINCIPLES FROM “APOLOGETICS FOR A NEW GENERATION”

- The new apologist is humble (“gentleness and respect” 1 Pet 3:15)
 - Be a good listener
 - Build trust; show we care

PRINCIPLES FROM “A NEW KIND OF APOLOGIST”

- Four essential questions to answer during a conversation with someone whose beliefs are different from our own:
 - 1) What does this person believe? (Prov 18:13 - “He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.”)
 - What do you mean by that?
 - 2) Why does this person believe?
 - How did you come to that conclusion?

PRINCIPLES FROM “A NEW KIND OF APOLOGIST”

3) Where do we agree?

- Seek out and affirm God’s truth in each perspective we encounter.

4) Based on this knowledge, how should I proceed?

- Avoid anger, speak wisely (Prov 12:16a, 18 - “A fool's anger is known at once . . . ¹⁸ There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.”)

CRITICAL ISSUES TO HAVE ANSWERS FOR

- The inspiration and trustworthiness of the Bible
- Who is Jesus?
- Human sexuality
- World religions

FINAL THOUGHT

“If we want our friends and neighbors to listen to *our* story, then we must listen to theirs. If we want others to attend to *our* convictions, then we must attend to theirs. If we desire for others to cultivate common ground with us, we must do so *first*. In doing so, we will create a communication climate in which we can fulfill our deepest longing – engaging others in a respectful, civil way that allows us to share a perspective that has changed our lives.” (Tim Muehlhoff, p. 28)

OIKOS APOLOGETICS

Connecting relationship, lifestyle, and being ready to give an answer.