

Defending Your Belief in Jesus

Let me encourage you, when you go to work in January, to ask your coworker's about their holiday celebrations. If they don't ask about yours, then ask, "Can I tell you about ours?" They will likely say, "Yes", after you have politely listened to them. Tell them how your family celebrated, including the special church celebrations of the gift of our savior.

Now let's imagine that while you are sharing about the great concert December 18th, and the other Christmas happenings at your church, another co-worker jumps into the conversation. This person says that Christianity isn't true because it is intolerant. What would you answer?

If we are going to be effective in today's world at *Changing Lives for Christ*, we have got to have answers to such statements. Non-Christians have many accusations, and questions, about Christianity. Being able to answer those questions and accusations is called APOLOGETICS. And Christians more than ever before need to intelligently defend what they believe.

America is more of a melting pot than ever before. Though we have always been a diverse country racially, ethnically, and culturally, we are even more so today. Christians were in the majority for so long that we have taken their acceptance for granted. But today there are the voices of many different values, beliefs, morals, religions, and ethics being lived and discussed openly. Christianity stands out from the crowd, but not, in the values of popular culture today, in a good way. Many people think ill of Christianity. They do so, not because we have firmly held beliefs for ourselves, but because we believe others are wrong, and are willing to say so.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me." Because we believe Jesus is right, and all other paths are wrong, we are labeled "intolerant" of other's beliefs. So be it. But there are intelligent answers to such accusations. And we will learn these this year as we seek to be more effective followers of Jesus Christ