

Becoming God Strong Warriors with fearless faith!

Introduction

Unprepared Nominal Christians

Gen Z (Sean McDowell)

33% believe gender is how a person feels, not their birth sex

49% believe happiness is to find my financial success

34% believe lying is morally wrong

28% believe science and church teachings are complementary

58% believe many religions can lead to eternal life as there is no one true religion.

World Views

Origin, Meaning, Morality, Destiny

Naturalism. The belief that God does not exist and natural forces are sufficient to explain everything.

Pantheism. The belief that all is God and distinctions are artificial.

Individualism. Life is all about me. The purpose of life is to be authentic to yourself and to live according to your feelings without obligation to anyone or anything beyond the self.

Theism. The belief in one God as Creator of the universe, intervening in it and sustaining a personal relation to his creatures.

Move to a bolder place

We need to put on the full armor of God.

We need to prepare for the fight against anti-God ideas.

Be Prepared

I. Why should you be prepared to defend your faith? 2

II. What are the challenges that confront the church and youth? 9

III. How can you prepare to stand firm for Christ? F

Why Prepare?

1. **Why Prepare? 1st to strengthen your faith in order to fearlessly share your faith.**

You will strengthen your faith and boost your boldness to share your faith if you will prepare to defend your faith.

2. **Why prepare? God commands it.**

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,

Context

Defense often during hostile interrogation.

The Charge

In that context what command are Christians to obey?

1. “revere Christ as Lord”

Why do we take a stand against abortion, homosexuality, living together before marriage, immorality? 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 2 Tim. 3:1-5

2. “give the reason”

Provide rational justification for the Christian faith worldview. (origin, meaning, morality, destiny)

Demands rigorous preparation.

Prepared to answer questions and refute objections.

3. “with gentleness and respect

Your attitude carries as much weight as your arguments.

Know the message you are defending!

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to those who believe. Romans 1:16

3rd Why Prepare? 3rd because of the greatest commandment.

4th Why Prepare? 4th because people have sticking points!

II. What are the challenges that confront the church and youth?

1. 1st Spiritual Warfare
2. 2nd Youth are leaving the church.
3. 3rd Christianity is under attack.

Anti-Christian books influential

Fewer identify as Christians. 10% decrease

(American Religious Identification Survey 1990 - 2008)

Skepticism is a Growing Problem

(Intellectual doubts)

The Gospel is under attack

4. 4th Challenge: College
5. 5th Challenge: Youth have unanswered questions and doubts.
6. 6th Challenge: Youth have objections
7. 7th Challenge: Relativism

The doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or individual, and is not absolute.

What is true for you is true for you.

What is true for me is true for me.

8. 8th Challenge: Religious Pluralism

Religions with different truth claims are equally valid.

9. 9th Challenge: Secularism/Evolution

Secularism: Indifference to or rejection of religion

Evolution: Every living thing came into existence from one living cell.

10. 10th Challenge: Changing attitudes toward Christianity

Bible is filled with errors and can no longer be trusted.

It's been changed so many times we don't have an accurate text.

I'm more likely to believe in Leprechauns.

Jesus was just a good man.

He was not God nor did He rise from the dead.

III. How can you prepare to stand firm for Christ?

1 Make Christ absolute ruler Rom.12:1-2

2 Stand for Christ. Get out of the secret service

3 Trust the power of the Lord our God.

4 Get trained.

5 Practice your defense

6 Understand our culture

7 Learn to refute false ideas

8 Create your Christian Warrior Creed

9 Take defenders training course

10 Be a two decision Christian

Take up the Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.