

# **Introduction to Apologetics**

## **SESSION 11: A WORD TO APOLOGISTS**

### **11C: My Dear Apologist, Please Be Patient**

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

#### **Top Ten Helps for the Impatient Apologist**

1. Take the time and effort to learn the nuance of your arguments, both yours and your opponent's. Nothing of substance in the apologetic realm is learned without time and effort. Commit to the process. Be patient.
2. Try by practicing and practice by trying. Take constructive criticism. Hone your skills. Be patient.
3. Do not respond to a critic or enquirer too quickly, or without reflection. Your goal is not to save face or look smarter than someone else, but to manifest the longsuffering, persuasive love of God. Allow time. Be patient.
4. Invest in the conversation, and do not give in to the temptation to put forth shallow or simplistic answers that may appear to win the momentary battle of words but will likely lose the war of influence. Truth matters. Be patient.
5. Apologetics is a journey, not a moment. Yes, there will be important moments, but play the long game and cultivate the habit of seeing beyond the current moment to the eternal one. Urgency is not impatience. Be patient.
6. Your audience as an apologist is, in the final analysis, the Lord. He loves you, and he is patient with your development as a defender of the good news. See him in the face of the other. Be patient.
7. Do not give the enemy a voice in your head, in your heart. He wants you hurried, careless, easily offended, and unfocused. Silence him with patience. Be patient.
8. Use social media judiciously and with careful reflection when it comes to apologetic engagement. Remember that what you post reflects you and your Lord. Do not be afraid to use social media, but do not misuse it. Be patient.
9. If you use another apologist's work, make sure you know what it says and what it means. Take the time to be taught by others. We are in this together. Be patient.
10. When faced with the choice of speaking the truth impatiently now or speaking the truth in patient love later, always choose love. Now is not always best, and later is not always last. Be patient.

