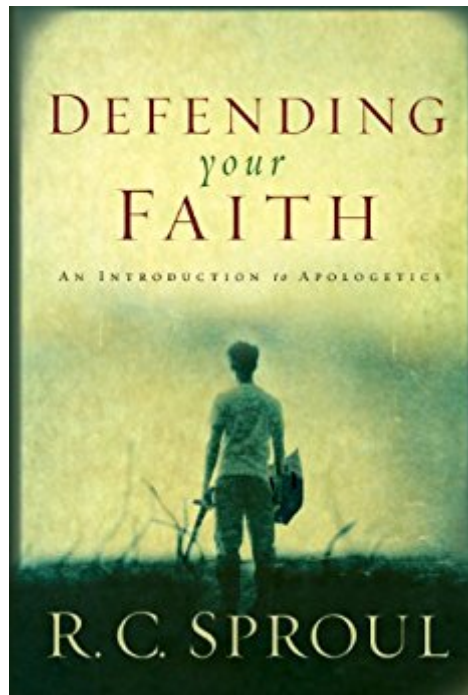




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Defending Your Faith: An Introduction



Synopsis

There is a widespread belief that reason and faith are incompatible and opposed to each other. Faith is viewed as subjective, emotional, a crutch for those who find the real world too hard. Though many of the world's finest minds hold this view, the Bible teaches that it is the fool who says there is no God. Dr. R. C. Sproul clearly and simply argues that at its core Christianity is rational. He focuses on defending the basic truth claims for two of the most crucial issues of apologetics: God's existence and the Bible's authority. In this primer of apologetic thought, Dr. Sproul affirms four logical principles that are necessary for all real discussion and teaches you how to defend your faith in a faithless world. Using the writings of church fathers and philosophers throughout the ages, he uncovers the common ideologies that work against faith. The defense of the faith is not a luxury or an intellectual vanity. It is a task appointed by God that you should be able to give a reason for the hope that is in you as you bear witness before the world.

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Customer Reviews

Sproul explains many of the philosophies, and errors in logic, that are prominent today. He applies these to errors in attacking Christianity. He is intelligent and non-confrontational. If you want to know more about defending Christianity, this is a good introductory book.

R.C. Sproul does a fantastic job of offering a very deep topic, such as philosophy and apologetics, at a lay-persons level. Not to say that it is without its deep points where necessary, but rather, this isn't an exhaustive approach to apologetics. I offer four stars as there were points that I felt could have been stated more clearly or should have been dealt with a little more thoroughly. Also, considering the depth and breadth of the topic he attempts to cover, a quality summary at the end of each chapter might have helped the reader recall the discussion and possibly clarified the authors approach.

This is an excellent introduction to apologetics that places the bulk of the emphasis on the philosophical arguments typically used against theists. Essentially this is apologetics that focuses to begin with not on Scripture, but on epistemology. How do we know what we can know? This has been a critical arena for non-theists seeking to discredit the possibility of a God without the necessity of dealing with any particular god. Sproul deals with the major epistemology topics of the law of noncontradiction, causality, the reliability of sense perception as a means for gathering knowledge, and finally the analogical use of language. He then moves on to an overview of key voices on the topic of natural reason and faith. He then moves on to offer the four basic explanations for why there is *stuff* - you, me, the earth, the universe, lemurs, what-have-you. Does *stuff* really exist at all or is it an illusion? If *stuff* is really there, did it get there by chance or by it's own causation? Could it have always been there in one form or another? Or does the fact that *stuff* exists necessitate an uncreated creator that is the source of all the *stuff* we know about today? Afterwards there are several chapters dealing with key philosophers in the modern period who contributed powerfully (generally in the negative sense) to the discussion of the existence of God. Each is examined in light of the four major issues of epistemology to determine whether they are rationally sound or not. And finally Sproul deals with the reliability and authority of Scripture. It is this last topic that seems to be the most briefly and inadequately treated, perhaps because Sproul expects that it will be more familiar to his readers. It is in this section that there are more dots that appear to be unconnected - or connected only tenuously. There is valuable material here, but it could have been dealt with a bit more thoroughly. If you aren't well-versed in philosophy, this book is an excellent primer with a target of educating Christians to feel more adept at engaging non-theists

on the topics that non-theists often choose for their rejection of theism. Sproul writes engagingly and accessibly. There are sections where he quotes Scripture rather extensively, but in other areas he deals with the topic purely from a rational standpoint - since that is how the apologist is going to need to engage the non-theist. An excellent introduction to an important and often neglected aspect of apologetics.

I listened to this audiobook. It was a very clear and stimulating rendition of a challenging subject. I aim to buy the print version and use it as a resource. Our faith makes sense and we do not need to be intimidated by fast-talking atheists but we do need to communicate what and why we believe. This book will help you do that in a calm, reasonable way.

I enjoy R.C. Sproul, but I think he sometimes forgets the audience reading his books, although the information was incredible, it should probably be explained in simpler terms the average reader might need examples of what he is discussing. Just need it to be easier for the average man to apply and learn, because it has great information, just not user friendly.

Great read!

I have the Kindle/Audible with whispersync versions, and I listened entirely, but this is a book that needs to be read carefully and make notes. I stopped the car several times to add bookmarks when Sproul made an especially notable remark. Sproul has a great legacy as an apologist, so I will read this book when I've finished another book.

The book itself is quite good but the kindle edition is missing any spacing between sentences. This makes reading it quite annoying. The publisher should fix the kindle edition and release an update.

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