

## Defending the Faith

### **Part 1**

Last week we focused on presenting the gospel and what the gospel message really means. This week our focus is on defending the gospel. This week we will talk about defending the faith. This part (part 1) will be a general look at how we defend the faith and part two will be about specific different teachings. Now, I want to emphasize that it is most important to know the truth and not as important to study the differences or the lies. It's important to know some things about different teachings but unless God is calling you to it or burdening you too talk to a certain category of people (for examples Mormons), I would strongly suggest you not to study different religions and philosophes in depth. I have found that there are way too many ideas out there and the best thing to do is to be rooted in the Bible and in the teachings of Jesus. This way when I hear something that's different than the Bible I can immediately point it out. I have heard once that the people who are experts in counterfeit money and identifying them, study very thoroughly how the real dollar bill looks like. This way they can distinguish the differences. I also remember studying very intensely the anatomy and physiology of a healthy human body before studying more about different diseases and illnesses.

Some people have challenged me and told me I need to study everything. But I disagree. Remember, that there are many teachings that have spirits behind them, which is the spirit of deception. It is very important to be cautious when reading or looking into material with a teaching that goes against the Bible. Some might think that they are ready to study secular or anti-Biblical material but it's not about strong faith, knowledge, or experience instead it is about whether God wants me to do it. If God is calling me to study something, then God will give wisdom to distinguish things and discern things what is truth what is not truth and I will use this material for His glory (for example studying Mormonism to witness to more Mormons). However, it is done without God's will and His guidance then one is in very dangerous ground. I do want to introduce you to some religions you will come across when you witness but we will not study them in depth (for reasons I've mentioned above).

For this part, I want to focus on the doctrines of the Christian faith or the most important teaching of the Bible. Below I will add a list from CARM.ORG ([Basic Christian Doctrine | List of Doctrine Basics | carm.org](http://Basic Christian Doctrine | List of Doctrine Basics | carm.org)) of the basic doctrines of Christianity. You probably will realize that for last week's lesson we already studied most of these points when we studied the gospel. Take a moment and review each point. Don't worry about memorizing these as there's a lot (DON'T memorize the verses too) but do make sure you understand all of them as I will test you on some of these points.

1. There is only one [God](#) – [Isaiah 43:10](#); [44:6, 8](#); [John 17:3](#); [1 Cor. 8:5-6](#); [Gal. 4:8-9](#)
2. God is a [Trinity](#) – [2 Cor. 13:14](#); [1 Pet. 1:2](#)
3. There are no Gods before or after God – [Isaiah 43:10](#)
4. God knows all things – [1 John 3:20](#)
5. God is all-powerful – [Psalm 115:3](#)
6. God is everywhere – [Jer. 23:23, 24](#)
7. God is sovereign – [Zech. 9:14](#); [1 Tim. 6:15-16](#)

8. God is spirit – [John 4:24](#)
9. God created all that exists – [Gen. 1:1](#); [Isaiah 44:24](#)
10. Spirit does not have a body of flesh and bones – [Luke 24:39](#)
11. God has always been God – [Psalm 90:2](#)
12. [Jesus](#) is God – [John 1:1, 14](#); [10:30-33](#); [20:28](#); [Col. 2:9](#); [Phil. 2:5-8](#); [Heb. 1:8](#)
13. Jesus became a man – [Phil. 2:5-8](#)
14. Jesus has two natures: divine and human – [Col. 2:9](#); [1 Tim. 2:5](#)
15. Jesus was sinless – [1 Pet. 2:22](#)
16. Jesus is the only way to God the Father – [John 14:6](#); [Matt. 11:27](#); [Luke 10:22](#)
17. The Holy Spirit is God – [Acts 5:3-4](#)
18. The Holy Spirit is not a force. He is alive – [Acts 13:2](#)
19. The [Bible](#) is inspired by God – [2 Tim. 3:16](#)
20. All people have [sinned](#) – [Rom. 3:23](#), [5:12](#)
21. Man did not evolve; he was created – [Gen. 1:26](#)
22. Adam and Eve were real people – [Gen. 3:20](#); [5:1](#); [1 Tim. 2:13](#)
23. Death entered the world because of Adam's sin – [Rom. 5:12-15](#)
24. Sin separates us from God – [Isaiah 59:2](#)
25. Jesus died for all our sins – [1 John 2:2](#); [2 Cor. 5:14](#); [1 Pet. 2:24](#)
26. Jesus' sacrifice was a substitution for us – [1 Pet. 2:24](#)
27. Jesus rose from the dead in His physical body – [John 2:19-21](#)
28. Those who reject Jesus will go to Hell – [Rev. 20:11-15](#)
29. [Hell](#) is a place of fiery punishment – [Matt. 25:41](#); [Rev. 19:20](#)
30. Hell is eternal – [Matt. 25:46](#)
31. The unsaved go to hell forever – [Rev. 21:8](#)
32. [Salvation](#) is a free gift of God – [Rom. 4:5](#); [6:23](#); [Eph. 2:8-9](#)
33. The Bible is the Word of God – [2 Tim. 3:16](#)
34. Jesus will return visibly to earth – [Acts 1:11](#)
35. Christians will be raised from the dead when Jesus returns – [1 Thess. 4:14-17](#)
36. There will be a rapture (being caught up into the clouds with Jesus) – [1 Thess. 4:14-17](#)
37. There will be a final judgment – [2 Pet. 3:7](#)
38. The damned will be thrown into a lake of fire – [Rev. 20:15](#)
39. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire – [Rev. 20:10](#)
40. There will be a new heavens and a new earth – [2 Pet. 3:13](#); [Rev. 21:1](#)

For a more in depth summary of all of these you can look click on the link to see the Baptist Church Statement of Faith (written in Russian). [Verouchenie-2017.pdf \(salvationbaptistchurch.com\)](#). The reason I bring this subject in the first place is because there are many different teachings and understandings of the Bible. In Peter 3:15, it is written, “*but <sup>[a]</sup>sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect.*” If someone's understandings or teachings goes against Biblical doctrines, listed up top, it is our duty as Christians to point him/her to the true Biblical truths. Of course, we are to do this in a loving way, which includes not debating or arguing with the person. Sometimes I've noticed that for a person to understand these truths they need to see the big picture. Therefore, when there's a

doctrinal question, I explain the gospel message to them first so that they may hopefully better understand the different details of the Christian doctrine.