

FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GETTING APOLOGETICS INTO THE CHURCH

Regardless of the model(s) for “doing apologetics in the local church,” at the very least, a local church may wish to at least engage in the following routine endeavors:

1. Each month or every two months, devote at least one Sunday morning/evening or midweek church gathering to addressing a major worldview or apologetic question that would seem to be relevant to the spiritual and intellectual needs of your congregation. This would be beneficial for both self-identified Christians and unchurched attendees.
2. On a quarterly basis, devote at least one Sunday morning/evening or midweek church gathering to answering biblical/theological or worldview/apologetics relevant questions from the congregation. Maybe these are answered by both pastor(s) and any theology/apologetics professors that attend a congregation. Bottom line: it is enormously beneficial for a pastor to be attuned and responsive to the ongoing and actual questions from a congregation; it's an effectual way to test an important part of the soul of a congregation.
3. Twice a year, invite a guest speaker(s) to come and address a major apologetics/ worldview issue for some sustained training that would be beyond the scope of a regular church gathering in order to equip local church leaders from the immediate area. Maybe this is a Saturday morning seminar for two to three hours that is discussion-oriented.
4. If a local church has a bookstore/library, stock it full with quality resources that are attentive to real and felt intellectual needs in the congregation and regularly promote such resources through as-needed book study groups and discussions, one-paragraph reviews through church-wide communication endeavors, and opportunities to connect current theological training needs with bookstore/library resources for further study.
5. Teach any laity leaders how to address relevant worldview/apologetics questions through small group ministries in a local church, including how to integrate such training and character development with discipleship-forming endeavors in a group.

Courtesy of A Reasonable Response, Dr. William Lane Craig & Joseph Gorra