

# Reasons Ministries

## A Most Powerful Apologetic!

Pastor Rick Warren observed several years ago, “There are two reasons why people are not Christians: 1. They have never met a Christian and, 2. They have met a Christian! The church, it seems, is often its worst enemy. David Kinneman of Barna Research wrote a book a few years ago entitled: unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity ... And Why It Matters. What he found by extensive interviews and polling of younger Americans was “while Christianity has typically generated an uneven reputation, the research shows that many of the most common critiques are becoming more concentrated. The study explored twenty specific images related to Christianity, including ten favorable and ten unfavorable perceptions. Among young non-Christians, nine out of the top 12 perceptions were negative. Common negative perceptions included the following: present-day Christianity is judgmental (87%), hypocritical (85%), old-fashioned (78%), and too involved in politics (75%) - representing large proportions of young outsiders who attach these negative labels to Christians. Even among young Christians, many of the negative images generated significant traction. Half of young churchgoers said they perceive Christianity to be judgmental, hypocritical, and too political. One-third said it was old-fashioned and out of touch with reality” (<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/millennials/94-a-new-generation-expresses-its-skepticism-and-frustration-with-christianity#.U7BaYI1dVz4>).

Jesus never told us, that as Christians, we would win a popularity contest. In fact, in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus warns us that we should expect ridicule, disrespect, untrue things said about us and even, persecution. The United States has been unusually supportive of the church. We were founded largely by Christians to be a Christian nation with a secular government. As Kinneman points out, the tide is turning against the church in America, and turning quickly. True, we are sometimes our own worst enemies by how we act. Extreme examples like the truly unChristian behavior of those at Westboro Baptist Church and the ostentatious claims and practices of those in the “name it, claim it” movement do not help our image. Nor does it help us when our culture sees us too closely aligned with a particular political party.

So how do we reach an increasingly post-Christian and even anti-Christian people? While there are few easy answers to this quandary, Acts 1:8 sheds some important light on the task (Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” NIV). This verse reminds us that our real power for witness comes from the Holy Spirit. While most would agree that the Holy Spirit empowers our verbal witness, we fail to see, sometimes, that he also empowers the witness of our lives; our example. It seems to me, that when our lives exude Holy Spirit holiness, purity, integrity, love and empowered ministry, we will be witnessing in great power! A serving believer and a serving church is a powerful apologetic (defense of Christianity). Why? Because serving others in love fleshes out the transformation the Gospel brings! This past May, the church where I attend took an entire Sunday morning, and instead of having our usual worship services, chose to worship through service to the 40206 zip code of our community. Imagine 1700 volunteers serving a community with no strings attached! On an ongoing basis, this church has volunteers serving in several local public schools, and has ministries to single moms, children in the hospital, the homeless and ministries to many others. Serving people with the love of Jesus is in this church’s DNA. Serving in the power of Jesus and living a Christ-like life, are nearly irrefutable apologetics. When we exhibit Holy Spirit empowered love, integrity, compassion, purity, grace and kindness, the world wants to know why we love and why we serve. Which is when we tell them about Jesus!

### Got Questions??

About God and the problem of suffering?

The Bible’s reliability?

The uniqueness of Christ?

What is a worldview?

Christianity vs. Other Religions

Basic Apologetics?

Evolution vs. Creationism

**I can help with answers!  
Give me a call or send me an email! I would love to come to your church for a weekend of ministry.**

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### **Reasons Ministries' Mission**

*The mission of Reasons Ministries is to equip believers to know what and why they believe so they can stand firm in the Christian faith, be effective tools in God’s hand for reaching those that do not yet know Christ and to be able to apply practical apologetics to everyday life.*



**Question:** Isn't it intolerant to say that Jesus is the only way to heaven? Aren't there many roads and many ways to God'?

**Answer:** Tolerance seems to be our culture's supreme value today. We are told that we must be tolerant of everyone and every viewpoint. Unfortunately though, the one thing our culture seems to not tolerate is the truth.

During the month of August I will be teaching a class looking at a few of the world's major religions, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, the new spirituality and finally, why Jesus is the only way to heaven. I have titled the class, "Many Roads But One Way: Why Jesus Is The Only Way To Heaven!" A common belief among many is that, just like all roads lead to Rome, so all roads lead to heaven. This view that all religions are essentially the same and no one religion is exclusively true is religious pluralism. Dr. William Lane Craig says there are two types of religious pluralism, unsophisticated and sophisticated. (William Lane Craig: <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/defenders-2-podcast/transcript/s6-27>) Unsophisticated religious pluralism believes that all religions are essentially true. They are just different roads all going to the same destination. What this view ignores are the vast differences between religions, which result in numerous contradictions between them. For instance, in Islam there is a personal, unitary God. Buddhism has no God. Hinduism has millions of deities. We Christians have a triune God, one God who exists eternally in three persons. How can

each of these views be true when they are so contradictory?

Sophisticated religious pluralism says that all religions are false, none of them are true. Instead, each of them attempts to explain reality in a culturally relevant way. The only thing is, we cannot know what ultimate reality really is. So while all religions are false, they do have a beneficial aspect to them, they all do help to transform the lives of their adherents by helping them become less self-centered and help people to be good.

While all religions could be false, why couldn't one religion be true? This view is called religious particularism. This is the claim of most religions. Islam certainly claims to be the only way to God as does Buddhism, Mormonism and Christianity. But they can't be all right! There is one thing that just about all the world religions have in common, except one. Most every religion teaches there must be something you must do to be saved, or go to heaven or to attain some sort of ultimate reality. Christianity rejects human effort and says there is nothing we can do to earn heaven. Rather, in Christianity, God did all the work for us. What is unique to Christianity as opposed to all the world's religions is the grace of God. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins by being our substitute on the cross. He then validated his claims to be "the way, the truth and the life" exclusively, by rising from the dead. How do we receive this gift of eternal life? By receiving what Jesus offers by faith. Faith is not a work, but a response to God's offer of salvation. Is there only one way? Yes, and the way is a person, Jesus! Not a list of works.

### Past & Upcoming Events:

**June 17, 2014**— Led an all day Scripture Workshop for those pursuing Ordination in the C&MA, Ohio Valley District.

**July 12, 2014**— Spoke at the Northeast Christian Church Men's Breakfast on "A Widower Reflects On 33 Years of Marriage." Five Things I Did Right and Five Things I Did Wrong.

**July 13, 20, 27, 2014**— Preaching at Grace Crossing Church in Louisville.

**August 6,13,20,27, 2014**— I will be teaching a class on Christianity versus other religions at Northeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY entitled: "Many Roads But Only One Way: Why Jesus Is The Only Way To Heaven." This course will examine why religious pluralism cannot be true. We will look at Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, the new spirituality and why Jesus is the only way.

### **A New Presentation From David:**

### **A Widower Looks Back Over Thirty-three Years of Marriage: Five Things I Did Right and Five Things I Did Wrong!**

As a widower, I have a unique perspective on the 33 years I was married to the love of my life, Beth, who went to be with the Lord on February 2, 2013. Since she has passed away I have reflected many times on our marriage. I have put some of those reflections into a new talk that would be perfect for a marriage retreat or a special focus on marriage.

### About David



— 18 Years of Pastoral Ministry. Ordained and Licensed through the Ohio Valley District of the Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA)

— Adjunct Professor @ Indiana Wesleyan University at the Louisville, KY Campus since 2001 Have taught 11 different courses and over 800 students (many courses were in Bible and Apologetics).

— Graduate of Toccoa Falls College with a B.A. in Missiology and Alliance

Theological Seminary with a Masters in cross-cultural and theological studies. Additional Masters level work at TFC and Columbia International University

— Serving on Ohio Valley District Licensing Ordination & Consecration Committee and as a District Presbyter

— Started Reasons Ministries in November 2008

— Was married 33 years to Beth (Beth passed into the presence of the Lord on Feb. 2, 2013) with 3 adult children and 3 adorable grandchildren.

—Work currently as a mortgage loan advisor for First Fidelity Mortgage in Louisville, KY.