

Defending the Faith 21st Century Style



**PRINCIPLES FOR ADVOCATING WHY WE
CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS IN A WORLD
THAT IGNORES HIM**

Introduction



- Josh McDowell
- Evidence that Demands a Verdict
- More Evidence that Demands a Verdict
- A reasoned approach to believing that God exists, Jesus rose from the dead, and the Bible is God's revealed truth.
- “God’s Word tells us we must “always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). This updated classic from Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell will give you the tools you need to do just that.”

Defending the Faith: Paul's Example

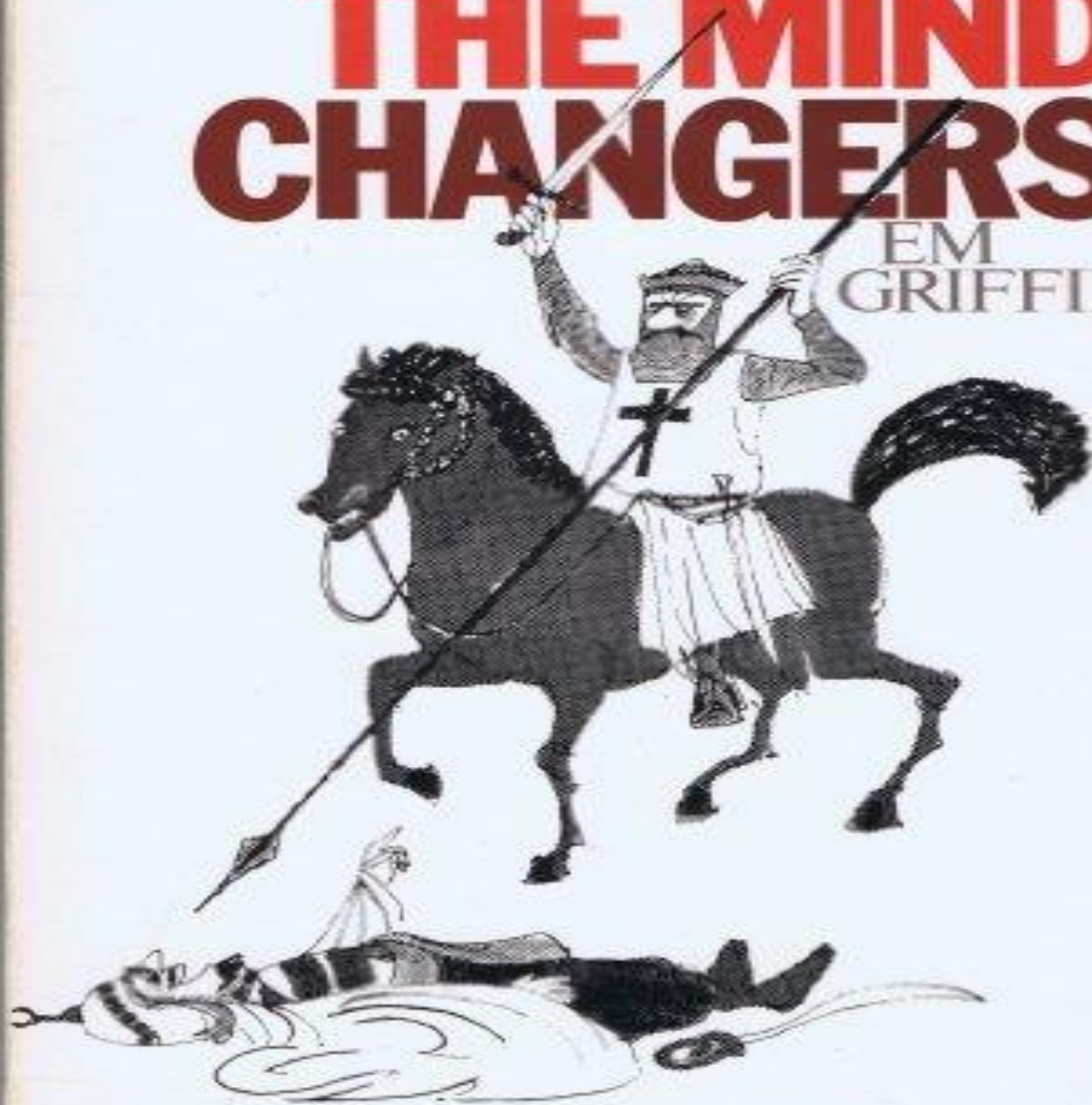


- Acts 22:1-2
- “Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you.” When they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even quieter.
- Defend?
 - Apologia
 - This is why I am doing this
 - Reasons for the way I believe
 - Often defaults into arguments for my thoughts on sexual ethics
 - And is perceived as quite attacking

The Art of Christian Persuasion

THE MIND CHANGERS

EM
GRIFFIN



"Tell me more about this Christianity of yours.
I'm terribly interested."

Defending the Faith: Peter's Instruction



- 1 Peter 3
- 1 Peter 3:15-17
 - Set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts
 - Always be prepared
 - ✦ Opportunism
 - ✦ Flying the flag
 - Giving a reason
 - ✦ Precept—Principle—Person
 - ✦ Here's why I live this way
 - With gentleness and respect
 - ✦ An invitation to conversational dialogue
 - Opposers will be shamed
 - ✦ Cognitive dissonance

Set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts...



**SOMETIMES THE
BEST EVANGELISM
IS SIMPLY TELLING
PEOPLE YOU'RE A
CHRISTIAN AND
THEN NOT BEING
A COMPLETE JERK.**



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Changing the world one conversation at a time



“We can take courage from the fact that many people are longing to be in conversation again. We are hungry for a chance to talk. People want to tell their story, and are willing to listen to yours. People want to talk about their concerns and struggles. Too many of us feel isolated, strange, or invisible. Conversation helps end that.”

- Margaret Wheatley (American writer and Management Consultant) in ‘Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future’

Advocating for the Faith



- **Advocate**
 - Parakletos: to come alongside to encourage and enable
- **The main characteristics**
 - Lifestyle
 - Relationship
 - Synergistic Enquiry
 - Cognitive Dissonance
 - Humility

In Conclusion



- Philip Yancey
- Dispensers of Grace
 - Pilgrims
 - Activists
 - Artists

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