

**Friday: 01/04/2018**

**Doing All Things Like Jesus**

*Be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear (1 Pe. 3:15-16)*

When we do the work of apologetics, we do it as disciples of Jesus—and therefore we are to do it in the manner in which he would do it. This means, above all, that we do it to help people, and especially those who want to be helped. That is how all of Jesus’s work is characterized in scripture. Apologetics is a helping ministry.

The picture presented in the context of 1 Peter 3:8-17 is that of disciples who are devoted to promoting what is good, but who are being persecuted for it. Their response, as Jesus had taught them, was to “rejoice and be glad” (Mt. 5:12). This led those looking on to inquire how the disciples could be joyous and hopeful in such circumstances. The question would, of course, be inevitable in an angry, hopeless, and joyless world.

As we give our explanation, our apologetic, as an act of neighbor love with “gentleness and reverence,” Jesus tells us we are to be “as shrewd as serpents” and “as innocent as doves” (Mt. 10:16). The serpent’s wisdom, shrewdness, is timeliness based on watchful observation. And doves are innocent in that they are incapable of guile or of misleading anyone.

**Reflect:**

(Q) How might you disagree with someone and still do it in a way that helps them?

(Q) Do you think it is possible to refrain from manipulating them- while at the same time intensely longing and praying for them to encounter Jesus in their life?

**Devotional by: Dallas Willard**

*Book: The Allure of Gentleness: Defending the Faith in the Manner of Jesus*



*Dallas Willard Ministries is excited to partner with Jeff Whitebread, who, through his work with Capitol Commission, ministers to those serving in the Pennsylvania State legislature, their staff members, and those in the lobbying community. We believe the thoughts and ideas contained in Dallas' book, The Allure of Gentleness, are timely guidance for those who seek to stand for truth in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus himself. Dallas acknowledged he gave up trying to get people to do things, preferring instead to inspire them to think things through on their own and come to a different view of matters. We pray that in making this material available, we can continue in his footsteps, playing our part in helping others catch a vision of life with God, becoming his apprentice, and walking in the easy yoke of Jesus — even when engaging the rough and tumble world of the public arena.*