

I was raised in a traditional, conservative Christian home and was blessed by parents who were dedicated Christians as well as serious students of the Word of God. I was taught the core beliefs of Christianity, studied the Bible regularly and memorized many verses, but no one taught my friends and I why Christianity was true. We were urged to invite friends to church, but that was about as far as our “witness” to others went. Had anyone asked me why I was a Christian, I could not have given a satisfactory defense of my own deeply held convictions. With the arrival of the 60s, the religious and spiritual landscape began to change. Every form of authority was questioned, including religion. Eventually the traditionally accepted authority and existence of God Himself was thrown over in favor of one’s own understanding of truth and morality. Many Christians, myself among them, began to ask questions. Was Christianity true? Was it true to the exclusion of other religions? Very few of my generation could provide an intellectually acceptable defense as to why we were a Christian. We were defenseless.

I did not come to the apologetics party until I was almost 50. It took the death of the husband of a close friend to bring that about. The day after this young man’s death, his wife made a public commitment to pray that God would bring good out of his early and tragic death. Over the next few months God brought a number of young men and women to faith in Jesus Christ. I wound up teaching a Bible study to this group of mostly new converts. Because everyone in our group was a Christian, I made the assumption that we all had the same religious background as well as the same understanding of Christian terminology. I was wrong. While everyone had accepted Jesus as their savior, what I did not initially understand was that many of them had come to faith in Jesus out of a variety of Eastern, New Age groups of which they had been a part. Hence, there was a lot of confusion from time to time about who Jesus really was, about the nature of God, and ultimately about why their new found faith was true to the exclusion of other religions.

To my great chagrin I found that I often did not even understand the nature of some of their questions. I knew I had to get some help, and one day in a bookstore, I found a book by Norman Geisler titled *The New Age Movement*. I bought it, took it home and read it in a matter of days. It was the first book that gave me the help and insight I was going to need to help this group of new Christians. This book marked a turning point in my own life spiritually. I realized that even though I had been raised in the church, and even though I knew Christian doctrine, I

was unprepared for the times in which I was living. I began buying and reading any kind of apologetically oriented books, magazines, or publications I could find. Dr. Geisler's name came up again and again and eventually, this led me to Southern Evangelical Seminary.

The first class I took was Dr. Geisler's Introduction to Apologetics. It opened my eyes in a way that I could not have imagined, as he handed me the initial set of tools by which to defend my faith. I was blessed to continue learning from this remarkable man for many years. The never-ending stream of books with Norm's name on them enabled so many to understand our faith better, and to be able to give a defensible answer for why we are a Christian.

Norman Geisler blessed my life in a way no other Christian teacher ever did. I will always be grateful that God allowed both me and my husband to meet and sit under his teaching. His impact continues in my life and ministry on a daily basis. So, while so many mourn the personal loss of Dr. Geisler, we celebrate the fact that God took a young man, saved him, gifted him in so many ways, and then preserved him for so many years, to evangelize and edify the body of Christ. Thank you, Norm, for helping so many of us, both young and old, to better understand and defend one true God, as revealed in His one true word.

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