

The cause of Christian apologetics to the world and to the church has lost, I believe, its finest and most apt defender of the faith. I have not heard or read any other apologist who had the careful attention to amassing of proof and the logical presentation of argument in a manner that equaled Norm's presentations.

Norm and I were friends for more than three decades. I had the privilege to spend several weeks with him and Barbara over the last several years in his home. Though many saw him to be not only an unbending debater and advocate for fine points of theology, I saw him much different. We spent many evenings together in a more casual setting, in which his light side became evident. He had a wonderful sense of humor and he was a very loving person. He was a good friend that I will miss.

Three special honors that Norm offered to me reflect our relationship. The first was authoring the book *The Battle for God* together. The issue of open theism which we addressed there was pivotal in Norm's case against false teaching within the evangelical camp. The second was my privilege of being asked by Norm several times to work with him at Southern Evangelical Seminary, once as a dean, and twice as the president. This was difficult for me to pass up, but necessary to meet the needs of my late wife to move back to the Northwest. I missed these opportunities of spending more time with him. Fortunately, I was able on several occasions to teach at SES, which allowed me to spend a lot of time with Norm and Barbara. I treasure these times together. Last of all, Norm strongly encouraged me to write a systematic theology some time before he produced his own outstanding systematic work. To have such a wonderful philosopher and theologian to encourage me as a mentor was a tremendous encouragement to me. This endeavor is something that I have finally begun. Hopefully this is something that he would have been proud of. I wish that he could have seen it before his passing.

Norm Geisler was loving in spirit but unyielding in his commitment to truth. Though he and I had a few differences over the many years, there were none that separated our bond. I deeply respected him for his commitment to truth and to the Lord Jesus, our Savior, and will sorely miss opportunity to speak with him on the phone and visit him in person. I am so happy that my wife Irina and I were able to visit Norm and Barbara in the spring when we were on vacation in the south and look forward to a fond reunion when we are together in the place prepared by Jesus for all those who love His appearing.

H. Wayne House