



# Discussion Questions

## CULTURAL APOLOGETICS

by Paul M. Gould

### Chapter 5: Reason

1. The beginning of this chapter gives a bleak assessment of Western culture in the wake of the information age: a spirit of anti-intellectualism, the dumbing down of the Western mind, and the inability to sustain linear thought. “Studies have demonstrated that we are *losing* our minds.” (p.120)
  - a. What are some ways you have observed this phenomenon in your own life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What are some ways you might work to reverse this, and regain those lost abilities? (According to *The Shallows* by Nicholas Carr, it is possible! Highly recommended by Patti. 😊)
  
2. The author mentions that Christians who view their faith in experiential or emotional categories might contribute to the atheists’ view that Christianity is unreasonable based on “absence of evidence” and the “blindness of faith” (p.122). What are some responses to questions about faith or objections against Christianity that would confirm the atheists’ suspicions? (Responses apologists should avoid!)
  
3. On pp. 123-24, the author recalls two different evangelistic encounters he experienced in college. What aspects of these two different encounters would you consider strengths or weaknesses? Why?
  
4. Gould points out that the God-given longing for truth and knowledge has been muted, and that one task of the cultural apologist is to awaken this innate longing in others. Give some practical examples of ways we might do this.

