



Discussion Questions

CULTURAL APOLOGETICS

by Paul M. Gould

Foreword by J.P. Moreland

1. When discussing the reasons Christians are leaving the church and abandoning their faith, Moreland compares some questions/concerns that are commonly thought to be the problem with the main reasons determined by a recent Barna poll:

<u>Common questions/concerns</u>	<u>Barna findings</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poorly done worship services• Failure to love people into the church• Not good at fostering relationships• Not promoting healthy congregations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overprotective/no exposure to anti-Christian ideas• Shallow teaching• Failure to help believers engage with scientific claims• Simplistic/judgmental treatment of sexuality• Exclusivist claims• Dismissive of doubters

- a. Which of these have you heard from church leaders or friends?
 - b. What was your response to the Barna findings?
2. After reading the foreword, what were your initial thoughts about cultural apologetics as briefly described by the author? (“the work of establishing the Christian voice, conscience, and imagination within a culture so that Christianity is seen as true and satisfying.”) Were you skeptical, intrigued, eager to learn more, unsure, etc.?

Chapter 1: What is Cultural Apologetics?

3. Based on what you read in this chapter, how would you describe the difference between traditional apologetics and cultural apologetics?

4. Gould proposes that cultural apologetics engages not just the mind, but also the imagination and human longing. Why do you think this broader approach is important?

(If time allows):

5. In what way(s) did this chapter challenge or affirm your view of apologetics or evangelism?
6. What concepts or quotes impacted you the most?