

4. cowardice

Today's "tolerant" American society isn't very tolerant of the intolerance of those with strong beliefs. (Got that?) Their intimidation causes many of us to *shy away from engaging anyone with what we believe and why we believe it*. But God **warned** us we would be **insulted** and **persecuted** and that **lies** would be told about us and we would be **rejected**. It comes with the territory. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be bold and respectful and loving in our defense. And you'll soon find out that some people really **are** interested in what we can offer them and *guess what* you may actually help lead someone to a saving faith! Woo Hoo!

5. arrogance & intellectual vanity

On the opposite side of things there is a trap we can fall into; the trap of a snotty, know-it-all attitude. But we must be humble and remember: *The truth we defend is a GIFT of grace, not of our intellectual achievement*. We aren't using apologetics to win arguments, but to assist in winning souls. Understand all that? Probably not. You're not too bright. And I have an education. Just kidding! See, I was being arrogant there. Wasn't very nice or productive, was it?

6. schlock apologetics

Apologetics includes studying, reading, & discoursing. Basing our defense on cute, shoot-from-the-hip, quick, pat, cliché answers is nothing better than Bumpersticker Theology. (Here is a risk even with this tiny little booklet; that people will memorize a couple answers and consider themselves learned!) The people we talk to are **individuals** and should be treated as such. **Listen** to what they're saying! **Respond** to what you hear! Like Jesus with the woman at the well!

Lookie here, many nonChristians see us as mindless automations living in our Christian ghetto, glued to the televangeli\$ts' every word, speaking a subculture language, and unaware of the reality around us. When you give intelligent, thought-out answers to genuine questions that they have, in terms they can relate to, for many it is a unique event in their lives. Let's go!