

## **A Transforming Vision: Motivation for the Privileged Task of Apologetics**

Knowing 'why' we do anything is of core importance. Where is our confidence to be found? What motivates us and sustains us in the long road of service? This session aims to inform and inspire us in the apologetic task, the great and exciting task of sharing our faith at this pivotal time in European History.

**John Kirkpatrick** has been the pastor in Portrush Presbyterian Church for the last 21 years. This church is situated on the North Coast of Ireland very close to the famous world heritage site, 'Giants Causeway.' John is the director of the apologetics course Reality316 aimed at equipping a wide range of people to be relevant apologists. For a number of years, he served as Chairman of New Horizon, a well-known Christian conference in Ireland and has been a chaplain to the Motorcycle Racing community, quite unique to the Irish culture. John is married to Joan and they have four children, three of whom are now married.

Duty is seldom adequate to produce the spirit needed to be effective as a Christian apologist, but the Lord has other reasons besides. We will examine some of these in this talk.

### **I. The Consistent Call**

- A. Throughout the centuries we remain faithful to that call to declare the gospel. Does this call also mean what we understand as apologetics today?

### **II. The Compelling Motivation**

- A. Motivation means movement and motion, but why is it sometimes so hard to do? Is knowledge enough without love?

### **III. The Sources of Inspiration**

- A. An apologist is on a journey but who inspires us to keep going. Do we have real reasons for hope?