

God's Loving Questions

We use the word Apologetics principally because of 1 Peter 3:15, which supposes that people ask us questions about the faith that is in us. Actually, people do not always (or often) ask questions, so to open the door to evangelism we need to do the “pre-apologetic” work of asking the questions. The first person who needed to be evangelized was Adam. God evangelized him in Genesis Chapter 3:6-11 not by making statements but by asking the questions, “Where are you?”, “Who told you?” and “Have you eaten?” These loving questions helped Adam to realize for himself the categories of fallen lostness, the need for salvation, and the reality of responsibility or guilt. Perhaps we should give some thought to using God's evangelistic and apologetic method in our own contact with unbelievers. If we follow this method successfully, with the help of the Holy Spirit, a situation appropriate for preaching and proclamation can develop.

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Genesis 3:6-11

6. When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9. But the Lord God called to the man,

‘Where are you?’

10. He answered, ‘I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.’

11. And he said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?’”