

## **How to Do Apologetics Jovially and Subversively: G.K. Chesterton's Model for Today's Evangelicals**

Our approach to apologetics is often dry, bitter, easily calculated, and boring. G. K. Chesterton was the opposite. He has been a major influence behind the conversion of C. S. Lewis, and has influenced generations of intellectuals, Catholic as well Protestant, Christian as well as secular. In this workshop we will look at the secret of his success and critically evaluate what we can learn from him.

**Ádám Szabados** is a Hungarian theologian and the leader of the Hungarian Evangelical Forum. Until 2017 he had been a pastor for 20 years. He is married to Dóra, and has two adult sons. He studied English literature and linguistics at the University of Veszprém (MA equivalent, with honours), and theology at Schloss Mittersill Study Center (Diploma in Biblical Studies and Culture) and at Covenant Theological Seminary (ThM in Exegetical Theology). He received his PhD (summa cum laude) in the area of New Testament at Károli Reformed University. His study on the Reformational understanding of sin has been published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He wrote a book on Eros (*Erosz nyomában*, Harmat Publishing House, 2008), which aims to address both Christians and non-Christians in their search for the good, the true, and the beautiful. Ádám also has a popular theological-apologetic website ([divinity.szabadosadam.hu](http://divinity.szabadosadam.hu)).

### I. Frequent Shortcomings of Contemporary Christian Apologetics

A. Too abstract (not specific enough)

B. Too obvious (not surprising)

C. Too cerebral (does not engage passions)

D. Too sober (as if joy was foreign to Christianity)

II. What We Can Learn from G. K. Chesterton's Apologetic Methods

A. Jovial subversiveness in *Orthodoxy*

B. Jovial subversiveness in *Heretics*

C. Jovial subversiveness in *The Man Who Was Thursday*

D. Jovial subversiveness in the *Father Brown Stories*

III. Some shortcomings of Chesterton's Method

A. Roman Catholic bias (we are evangelicals!)

B. Not sufficient (it needs to be supplemented by other methods)

***Suggested Readings:***

G. K. Chesterton: *Orthodoxy*

G. K. Chesterton: *Heretics*

G. K. Chesterton: *The Man Who Was Thursday*

G. K. Chesterton: *The Complete Father Brown Stories*