Lee Strobel: Is Your Church Safe for People Who Are Questioning?

<https://churchleaders.com/podcast/364549-lee-strobel-is-your-church-safe-people-questioning.html>

**Lee Strobel**is a best-selling author of more than 20 books, including his classic, *The Case for Christ*. He has spent the past 25 years sharing the evidence to support Christianity and encouraging and equipping people to share their faith. Most recently, Lee has founded the Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics at Colorado Christian University. The center seeks to fuel spiritual renewal across the U.S. by equipping churches, ministries and individual Christ-followers to naturally share and defend their faith. Lee has been married to Leslie for over 40 years, and they have two children and four grandchildren.

**Key Questions for Lee Strobel**

-Why is apologetics so important to local churches?

-What are some ways that churches are creating safe environments for questions?

-What do you mean by what you call the “New Apologetics”?

-What would you recommend to pastors of local churches as the next step if they really want to equip their people in apologetics?

**Key Quotes from Lee Strobel**

*“We live in an increasingly skeptical world.”*

*“I think that apologetics is ever more relevant for two reasons. First, to deepen the faith of believers so that they’ll be more confident in sharing their faith. And secondly, in reaching out to people who are skeptics or spiritual seekers.”*

*“If we’re going to be effective in sharing our faith in the 21st century, we’re going to have to be prepared to answer questions that people have and doubts that they express.”*

*“Church ought to be the safest place to ask questions. That ought to be the place where we bring our doubts and our objections.”*

*“Debates are ok, they have their place, but I think for the average Christian, they keyword isn’t ‘debate.’ It’s ‘dialogue,’ it’s friendships, it’s relationships.”*

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 *“I think the pastor has to set the tone for a willingness to entertain objections that people raise.”*

*“When a person in the church has an objection, is there a place to go?”*

*“God didn’t send a bunch of propositional answers. He sent the Answerer.”*

*“Modern apologetics is where we’re less arrogant and more loving and understanding.”*

*“How we answer the question and how we wrestle with the question and dialogue about a question is often every bit as important as the answer that we give.”*

*“Non-Christians are not our enemies! They are loved by God. Satan is our enemy, and we ought to keep that in mind.”*

*“Apologetics and evangelism these days are much more of a process than an event.”*

*“Some intellectual doubts that are expressed by people are really smokescreens that are hiding psychological barriers to God.”*

*“I think there’s a connection between the fact that we have a rise of fatherless families in America and we have a rise in spiritual skepticism.”*

*“A story is sometimes a powerful as a statistic.”*

*“We don’t have to pretend that we’re smarter than we really are.”*

*“We can relax in the fact that*[***the Holy Spirit***](https://churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/340174-13-characteristics-of-the-holy-spirit.html)*is superintending all that takes place…We’re not in this alone.”*

*“We don’t want to win the argument and lose the person.”*

*“Often we short-circuit things when we jump in too quickly to give the five-point sermon…We want to give answers as they’re appropriate, but sometimes it’s more appropriate to befriend people and to dig deeper.”*

*“We’re telling stories from the Bible, but not educating kids on why we can trust the Bible. And the result is we get nice kids who aren’t grounded in the truth of Christianity.”*Subscribe

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*“Our kids and our grandkids are going to be challenged with this stuff. We need to prepare them. If not, my goodness, it’s like sending someone off to war and not giving them a gun.”*

**Mentioned in the Show by Lee Strobel**

[**1 Peter 3:15**](https://www.sermoncentral.com/bible/new-international-version-niv/1-peter-3-15?passage=1+Peter+3%3A15)

[**Abdu Murray**](https://www.rzim.org/speakers/abdu-murray)
[***The Case for Christ: A Journalist’s Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus***](https://www.amazon.com/Case-Christ-Journalists-Personal-Investigation/dp/0310345863?ref_=ast_slp_dp/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1470748479&linkCode=as2&tag=outreachedito-20&linkId=f4884d7982dc0a0c799ec162dd845110)
[***The Case for Christ***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhe8KhSxWGo) film on Netflix
[***The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity***](https://www.amazon.com/Case-Faith-Journalist-Investigates-Christianity/dp/0310339294/ref%3Dpd_sbs_14_3/143-8968844-4973855/ref%3Das_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1470748479&linkCode=as2&tag=outreachedito-20&linkId=f4884d7982dc0a0c799ec162dd845110)
[**David Kinnaman**](https://churchleaders.com/podcast/357569-david-kinnaman-living-digital-babylon-need-know.html)
[***Faith of the Fatherless: The Psychology of Atheism***](https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Fatherless-Psychology-Paul-Vitz/dp/1586176870/ref%3Dsr_1_1?keywords=Faith+of+the+Fatherless&qid=1571782444&s=books&sr=1-1/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1470748479&linkCode=as2&tag=outreachedito-20&linkId=f4884d7982dc0a0c799ec162dd845110), Paul Vitz
[**Jay Warner Wallace**](https://coldcasechristianity.com/)
[**“Josh Harris Says He’s ‘fallen away’ From Faith”**](https://churchleaders.com/news/356178-josh-harris-says-hes-fallen-away-from-faith.html)
[**“Hillsong’s Marty Sampson Says He’s Losing His Faith and He’s Not Bothered”**](https://churchleaders.com/news/357080-hillsongs-marty-sampson-says-hes-losing-his-faith-and-hes-not-bothered.html)
Lee Strobel [**Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics**](https://www.ccu.edu/strobelcenter/)[***Making Your Case for Christ Study Guide: An Action Plan for Sharing What You Believe and Why***](https://www.amazon.com/Making-Your-Christ-Study-Guide/dp/0310095131/ref%3Dsr_1_1?keywords=Making+Your+Case+for+Christ&qid=1571782619&s=books&sr=1-1/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1470748479&linkCode=as2&tag=outreachedito-20&linkId=f4884d7982dc0a0c799ec162dd845110), Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg
[**Nancy Pearcey**](http://www.nancypearcey.com/)
[**Natasha Crain**](http://christianmomthoughts.com/)
[***Outreach Magazine***](https://churchleaders.com/author/outreach)
[**Sean McDowell**](https://churchleaders.com/podcast/314507-josh-sean-mcdowell-answer-skeptics-post-truth-world.html)
[***Seeker Small Groups: Engaging Spiritual Seekers in Life-Changing Discussions***](https://www.amazon.com/Seeker-Small-Groups-Life-Changing-Discussions/dp/0310517125/ref%3Dsr_1_2?keywords=Seeker+Small+Groups&qid=1571782515&s=books&sr=1-2/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1470748479&linkCode=as2&tag=outreachedito-20&linkId=f4884d7982dc0a0c799ec162dd845110), Gary Poole

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