



Christian Confidence:

*An Introduction to
Defending the Faith*

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Chris Sinkinson

worked as an archaeologist before studying philosophy and theology. He is now a lecturer in apologetics at Moorlands College on the south coast of England and pastors a church in the New Forest. He is married and has two sons.

Is Christianity in decline or on the march?

In Western Europe and across America this is a difficult question to answer. In some places churches are growing and multiplying, while in other places they are withering and closing. In education, television and lecture halls Christianity is often put on the defensive. Objections to faith seem to multiply, and Christians can end up feeling embarrassed about their beliefs.

This is not a book about church growth, but it is a book written with the conviction that Christians should be confident in their faith.

This confidence is not arrogance, nor is it simple-mindedness. It is a confidence in what God has done and said that motivates our conversations. We have a faith grounded in real history, a faith that makes sense of life, and that has great appeal.

So how should this confidence shape the way we share our faith?

In this book I want to reflect on the history of Christian witness and what we can learn that will help us to sharpen our witness. You may be the practical type who just wants to get on with the job. You want a book that will give you a quick potted guide to answering difficult questions.

This is not quite that book. But whether you are the practical type or a reflective thinker, I would like you to slow down and take some time to think these things through. How do we reason? What makes a good argument? Where have Christians gone wrong in history and why? You may find these questions a little abstract but we do need to ask them. Asking them will help us develop firmer foundations for faith and witness. You are not embarking on a quick read or an easy subject, but you are engaging with some of the most important themes in life. So join me in a journey through history, philosophy and theology, and see if we are more confident in our faith at the end!

—Adapted from the introduction