

A Brief Introduction to Christian Apologetics

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS?

Definition (Greek: *apologia* = “defense”)

Christian apologetics is the formal defense of the Christian faith against doctrinal error, misrepresentation, and various objections. Christian apologetics attempts to demonstrate persuasively that the gospel message is true in what it affirms.

- Supporting Scripture (1 Peter 3:15)

POINTS OF CLARIFICATION

1. Christian apologetics is not apologizing (showing remorse) for having faith.
2. Christian apologetics is not about coercing people to embrace a point of view.
3. Christian apologetics is not about simply winning an argument.
4. Christian apologetics is not about the prideful humiliation of others.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF APOLOGETICS

These were not covered in the video but are included here for your reference.

- ❑ Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:1-11 and Mark 2:5-11)
- ❑ Stephen (Acts 6:8-10)
- ❑ Paul (Acts 17:2-4 and Philippians 1:7, 17)
- ❑ Ordained Elders (Titus 1:9)
- ❑ Jude (see entire book, especially verses 3 and 4)

FAMOUS CHRISTIAN APOLOGISTS FROM CHURCH HISTORY

- ❑ Justin Martyr, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, and others (pre-20th Century)
- ❑ C. S. Lewis, Norman Geisler, William Lane Craig, and others (Modern)

TWO METHODS OF CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

1. **Evidential apologetics** uses historical, archeological, scientific, and other types of evidence to demonstrate the truth of Christianity.
2. **Presuppositional apologetics** answers the prior assumptions and biases of the opponents of Christianity to argue for the rationality of the Christian worldview.

WHY IS CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS IMPORTANT?

- ❖ *First, Christian Apologetics Combats Doubt.*
- ❖ *Secondly, Christian Apologetics Strengthens Faith.*
- ❖ *Thirdly, Christian Apologetics Serves the Cause of Evangelism.*

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

- Geisler, Norman L. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Mason, Eric. *Urban Apologetics: Restoring Black Dignity with the Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021.