

Apologetics 101

Some More Fundamentals

1. Christian Epistemology

2. Specific Purposes of Apologetics

3. Summary of Apologetics

- A. Proof: presenting a rational basis for faith
- B. Defense: answering objections of unbelief
- C. Offense: exposing the foolishness of unbelief and unorthodoxy

4. Two Approaches of Apologetics:

A. "Rational"

This approach focuses on reasons to believe and on defending the faith against criticism. This is often called "traditional" or "classical" apologetics because this seems to be the method used by the most prominent apologists of earlier centuries. Rationalists start from "neutral" ground and work toward proofs that the Bible and Christianity are true. Before one can meaningfully discuss historical evidences, one has to establish God's existence. Without a theistic context, no historical event could ever be shown to be a divine miracle. Once God is proven to exist, one can show that the Bible is God's Word, that Jesus is God's Son, and that Christianity is the only valid faith.

B. "Presuppositional"

This approach focuses on presenting the truths of Christianity as fact without regard for how unbelievers respond to it. "[We] should present the biblical God, not merely as the conclusion to an argument, but as the one who makes argument possible." By demonstrating that unbelievers cannot argue, think, or live without presupposing God, presuppositionalists try to show unbelievers that their own worldview is inadequate to explain their experience of the world and to get unbelievers to see that Christianity alone can make sense of their experience.