

## What Is Apologetics?

### 1. What do we mean by “Apologetics”?

“Apologetics” comes from the Greek word *ajpologiva apologia*. Its basic meaning is

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

- A simple definition: *Apologetics is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian faith.*<sup>1</sup>
- “Apologetics has to do with \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, the truth of the Christian faith.”<sup>2</sup>

### Some examples of the NT use of the word

- **Luke 12:11** – Jesus speaking to his disciples: “When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say”
- **Acts 22:1** – Paul speaking to the Jewish crowd who had seized him in the temple: “Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you.”
- **Philippians 1:7** – Paul speaking to the Philippians: “For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.”
- **Philippians 1:16** – Paul’s friends preach the gospel: “out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.”
- **\*\*1 Peter 3:15** – Peter exhorting believers: “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”

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<sup>1</sup> Kenneth D. Boa and Robert M. Bowman Jr., *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*, (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001), 17.

<sup>2</sup> Steven B. Cowan, gen. ed., *Five Views on Apologetics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), 8.

## **2. Who should do Apologetics?**

1 Peter 3:13-17

## **3. The Task of Apologetics**

a) **Proof**

b) **Defense**

c) **Refutation**

d) **Persuasion**

## **4. The Limits of Apologetics**

McGrath: "The aim of apologetics is to create an intellectual and imaginative climate favorable to faith; it does not create that faith."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Alister E. McGrath, *Intellectuals Don't Need God and Other Modern Myths* (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1993), 52.

*In what ways is the **Holy Spirit** essential for apologetics?*

1. The problem of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 2:14, 12:3; Rom. 8:7)
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:8-11; Acts 16:14)
3. To give \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 4:31, 14:3; Eph. 6:19-20)

## **5. Objections to Christianity**

Some common questions and objections to Christianity we will be dealing with:

- How do we know God exists? (Stevenson)
- Is the Bible reliable? (Iverson)
- Aren't miracles scientifically impossible? (Iverson)
- Was Jesus really God? (Stevenson)
- Don't all paths lead to God? (Stevenson)
- Doesn't science show the Bible is wrong? (Iverson)
- Why are Christians so intolerant? (Iverson)
- If there is a God, why is there so much evil and suffering in the world? (Stevenson)
- I'm a good person, do I need Jesus? (Stevenson)