



Introduction to Apologetics

ARBOR OAKS BIBLE CHAPEL – JANUARY 2016

Introduction to Apologetics

1. What do we mean by “Apologetics”?

- ▶ From a Greek word meaning “defense” or “reply”
- ▶ “Apologetics is the defense of the Christian faith.”
- ▶ “Apologetics has to do with defending, or making a case for, the truth of the Christian faith.”

Introduction to Apologetics

2. Who should do Apologetics?

- ▶ 1 Peter 3:13-17



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3. The Task of Apologetics

a) Proof

- ❑ Presents a rational basis for the Christian faith

b) Defense

- ❑ Defends Christianity against attacks

c) Refutation/Offense

- ❑ Refutes opposing beliefs

d) Persuasion

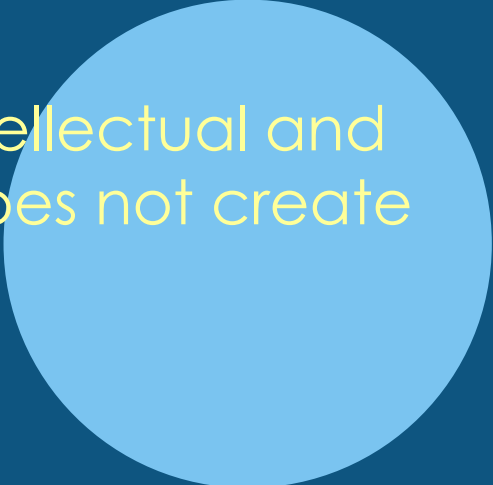
- ❑ Persuades people to embrace Christianity

Introduction to Apologetics



4. The Limits of Apologetics

“The aim of apologetics is to create an intellectual and imaginative climate favorable to faith; it does not create that faith.” (A. McGrath)



Introduction to Apologetics

4. The Limits of Apologetics

In what ways is the Holy Spirit essential for apologetics?

1. The problem of **human inability** (1 Cor. 2:14; 12:3; Rom. 8:7)

1 Corinthians 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Introduction to Apologetics

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In what ways is the Holy Spirit essential for apologetics?

2. To convict and convince (John 16:8-11; Acts 16:14)

John 16:8-11 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Introduction to Apologetics

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3. To give boldness (Acts 4:31, 14:3; Eph. 6:19-20)

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Ephesians 6:19-20 [pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim ^cthe mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

TIMOTHY KELLER

The
REASON
for
GOD

*Belief in an Age
of Skepticism*

