



LOGIC



REASON



Science

**STARTING
POINTS**

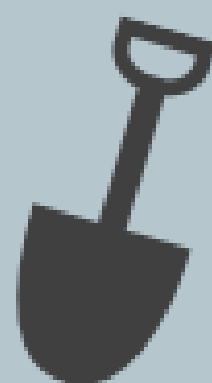


History

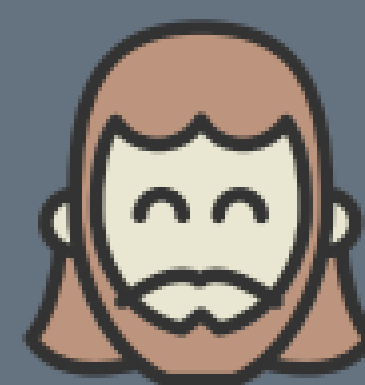
APOLOGETIC TOPICS



Morals and Ethics



Biblical Events



Fulfilled Prophecy

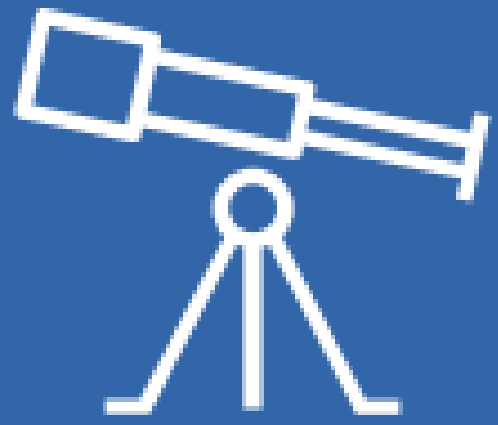
PROBLEM OF EVIL



**Theology +
Doctrine**

**PROBLEM OF
SUFFERING**

YOU NEED TO KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE



The Scientific Type

The Philosophical Type



The Religious Type



APOLOGY OR APOLOGETICS

T H E O N L Y T W O O P T I O N S W H E N
S H A R I N G Y O U R F A I T H

Overview: The Underappreciation of Apologetics

Apologetics: "Apologetics is the reasoned defense and commendation of the faith."

Apology: A regretful acknowledgment of an offense or an admission of failure or error or discourtesy.

The art or discipline of "apologetics" is currently being underappreciated which is defined as the following: the art of defending the Christian faith, or in other words, offering an "apologia" (Greek word for "defense") for the faith that you have. It has to do with providing a compelling case in defense for a belief or position.

Apologetics is something that the Apostle's all used and is grounded in Peter's exhortation found in 1 Peter 3:15 ESV which says the following:

"Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense [apologia] to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

Apologetics involves various types of arguments which include direct appeals to Scripture, using methods of logical reasoning, the witness of history, all done within the confines of a worldview that is rooted in both God's nature as well as the Divine Revelation of Scripture."

The two most popular methods of Christian apologetics are classical apologetics and presuppositional apologetics which are defined as the following:

Classical Apologetics:

This approach involves sharing and using proofs and evidence to make a positive case that the Christian message found in Scripture is true.

Presuppositional Apologetics:

This approach involves confronting the presuppositions or preconceived ideas/notions/assumptions behind positions that are anti-Christian.

The Problem: Apologetics is Underappreciated

Because of the current 21st century culture, apologetics for many seems to be overly confrontational or argumentative for a culture that has a wrong idea of what tolerance is. Today's society no longer values objective truth, it is a subjective culture, one that believes that all truth is relative and therefore sees no value in arguing for any position or set of beliefs. In addition to this, there is a misunderstanding in today's churches that apologetics is only for theologians or pastors or evangelist when it is supposed to be for everyone, which the Apostle Paul makes clear throughout the New Testament (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

Negative Effects of its Underappreciation

Due to its underappreciation, many Christians are leaving the church because of unanswered questions. They are being challenged with tough questions and unable to answer them or provide a defense for their beliefs and as a result begin to have doubt. Other negative effects also include the inability to articulate one's own profession of beliefs and in turn this provides a terrible witness to those who are being witnessed to. If a person cannot articulate what they believe and why they believe it, then why should others believe it?

60-80% of Christian denominational students leave the faith before they leave college

What does Proper Appreciation Look Like?

1. Studying Apologetics and investing time into becoming better apologists. You can purchase a book on systematic theology, presuppositional apologetics, or simply begin by studying the Word of God and being familiar with what Scripture says.
2. Churches teaching apologetics. This can be done at the pulpit or separately in small groups or classes that are directly focused on teaching apologetics and equipping the saints.
3. People using apologetics when sharing the Gospel. When people appreciate apologetics, they will use it while evangelizing and even at the pulpit if they are preachers.

Potential Positive Effects of Appreciation

- It is vital in shaping culture: he explains how apologetics is needed in a society that values evidence and if we are to preserve a culture in which the Gospel is heard as a viable option to rational and intellectual people, then apologetics is absolutely needed, and it needs to be front and center.
- It is vital in strengthening believers: apologetics helps to strengthen the individual believers in their own faith.
- It is vital in helping to evangelize to unbelievers: apologetics equips the believer to be more effective in sharing the Gospel. We can see examples of Paul using reasoning as well as establishing common ground whenever he engaged with others about his faith.

Call To Action

1. *Realize the need for apologetics.*
2. *Become a student of the Word.*
3. *Study apologetics as a spiritual discipline.*
4. *Commit yourself to becoming a life long student of the Word and apologetics.*
5. *Use apologetics when witnessing.*

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