

Apologetics

(ə-pŏl'ə-jēt'iks)

What is apologetics?

Apologetics is a word derived from the Greek word *apologeomai*, which means to give a reasoned defense (1 Pet. 3:15). In its Biblical context, apologetics is a branch of Christian theology and philosophy through which the Christian mind expresses itself in the task of evangelism.

Apologetics seeks to provide rational grounds for believing the truth claims of Christianity in whole or in part and to respond to objections raised against the true knowledge of God in whole or in part in the Christian faith (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Christian apologetics is the vindication of Christian truth claims and philosophy of life against the various forms of non-Christian philosophies of life. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be equipped in some knowledge and use of apologetics.

The work of apologetics should include the following three dimensions:

- (a) Apologetics as proof - presenting a rational basis for faith that confronts unbelief in the believer as well as in the unbeliever;
- (b) Apologetics as defense - answering the objections and overcoming the barriers of unbelief;
- (c) Apologetics as offense - demonstrating or revealing the foolishness of unbelieving thought and world-views in conflict with the Christian faith.

Apologetics should stress that God is interested in the character of the Christian and in the manner in which truth is communicated. The Christian must speak the truth in love, not being quarrelsome, able to teach, correcting the error with gentleness, kindness, patience, and humility. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

<http://www.arcapologetics.org/apologetics.htm>