

**REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS
RESOURCE**

APOLOGETICS

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS



REASON & FAITH
APOLOGETICS
BOOKS

Vincent Smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

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Smith, Vincent. Boulevard Road, Enterprise, Christ
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Barbados. VinCher Publishing. 2019.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Some things to take note of, about Apologetics.

Does scripture support apologetics? Giving a defence for the faith we believe in is a command from the scriptures.

Can we find apologists or such defences in scripture? Apologists and their defences are in scripture.

Who can be an apologist? We are all apologists.

What is the purpose of conversing with believers? Apologists are teachers of faith (to the lost and believers).

To whom do apologists defend the faith? Apologists are defenders of faith (to the lost and compromised or heretic believers). They are heavily involved in evangelism.

What do apologists think about God and the Bible? Apologists assume God exist and the bible is a true historical document.

Are apologists only evidence-driven? Apologists argue that believing is seeing and seeing is believing.

Why are apologists effective in debates and discussions? Apologists use logical arguments.

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Do apologists put science above God? Apologists believe science is neutral, it is not faith nor religion or evolution. Scientism is faith-based.

Apologists use evidence to strengthen a believer's faith, support the truth of the Bible and build defensible arguments. Everything you say as much as possible should be defensible.

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

CHAPTERS

- Chapter 1* *What is Apologetics*
- Chapter 2* *A specific theological discipline*
- Chapter 3* *Adopt an Apologetical Attitude*
- Chapter 4* *Is it a distraction from the Church's mission*
- Chapter 5* *The Apologetic's Ministry*

Chapter 1

What is Apologetics?

Definition of Apologetics

Greek Term – *Apologia* (*English transliteration is 'apologise', which does not mean to say sorry.*

Apology- name /noun. Apo -logy (study of or word or speech).

Apologise – action /verb (we don't apologia we apologise, one writes letters of apologies).

Apologetics- describe /adjective. Pertaining to an apology.

Apologist- someone who 'apologises'.

Apologia (n.) "defence, justification," 1784, the **Latin** form of **apology** (q.v.); popularized by J.H. Newman's "Apologia pro Vita Sua" (1864). It preserves the older sense of the **English apology** and the sense of the Greek original, especially as used by the Church fathers. In common Greek, apologia refers to an accused person in court, rejecting the charges filed against him or her. The

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

apologists of the second century chose this term because they wanted to show that the charges filed against Christians were unjustified and that the truths of their faith could be described and defended. An apologia was written to the Roman emperor, who certainly never read it. [Max L Stackhouse, "Apologia," 1988]

What do Apologia (Greek), and Apology (English & Latin) mean? A defence. It does not mean sorry or regrets. Disambiguity is needed. The meaning of the word Apology in yesteryear meant defence. Today the meaning has changed to mean sorry.

What are the scriptural bases for defending the faith?

Jude 1:3; 1 peter 3:15 (apologia) sanctify.

2 Timothy 4:2; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Acts 18:27-28; Acts 17:16-34;

Apologetics in the Scriptures

While apologies or defences of the Christian faith go back to the first century, formal apologetics is a more recent development. The leading apologists

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

before the Reformation, notably Augustine, Anselm, and Thomas Aquinas. Apologetics has continued until today.

Etymology -Apologetics is an English derivative of another English word apology. ‘Apology’ is an English translation of the Latin word apology which is a transliteration of the Greek word apologia.

Context of use in Greek writing- Greek lawyers would give a defence (apologia) for their clients.

The word apology for 1000s of years meant defence until recent times the meaning changed to regret or sorry. Therefore, we avoid using the word apologise or apology unless a definition or context is given.

The verb apologises, person/noun apologist, adjective apologetic.

Apologists in scripture:

The New Testament presents apologetic arguments to a wide variety of audiences, both Jewish and Gentile. Peter speaks of the messianic lordship of Jesus ([Acts 2:36](#)) and the authority of the apostolic truth claims.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Paul's address to the Philosophers. **Acts 17:17-32**). This is a substantial example of an apology directed to a non-Jewish audience in the New Testament. Thus this one speech has traditionally been regarded as a paradigm or model of apologetics.

Philippians 1:7 For it is right for me to think this about all of you because I have you in my heart since both in my imprisonment and the **defence** and confirmation of the gospel all of you became partners in God's grace together with me.

1 pet 3:13 For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good? **14** But, if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. **But do not be terrified of them or be shaken.** **15** But **sanctify** Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an **answer** to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. **16** Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience,

This is the most important passage in Apologetics. Sanctifying Christ in our hearts is key to effective evangelism/Apologetics. We may study extensively but fail to live Holy. When we evangelise people how much of it is you and how much is the Holy Spirit? He can use anyone but has shown a preference for those who live according to His will. He accomplishes more through us who are devoted

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

to living Holy. John the Baptist told the Pharisees and Sadducees **Matt 3:8** to "*produce fruit that proves your repentance*".... However, Jesus said, in **John 15:4** *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear **fruit of itself**, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.* This fruit Jesus speaks of cannot be achieved by ourselves but with Christ's help.

Paul's Apologetic Writings

Paul, undoubtedly taught that by examining the nature around us we will see that God's existence and divinity are clearly revealed. Every single human being, "knew God," (even without Jesus' message of salvation,) but they suppressed the truth. By refusing to acknowledge God people practised idolatry instead (**1:18-25**). (**Romans 1:18-28** that, instead of worshipping the being who created them and the universe, they created their gods and worshipped that instead. "knew God" (verse 21) -How can the unbeliever suppress knowledge they don't have? This is the argument by Atheists. Firstly, our presupposition is that the scripture is true, this means that all people at the least in some limited sense know God and in a fuller sense, recognise His power to create the universe and mankind, therefore His pre-universe existence (eternality) and God status (God headship) above us (vs 20). Even as more knowledge comes the

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

more knowledge is suppressed. These two views can be reconciled.

1) **1 Cor 1 & 2 (both chapters)** The knowledge Christians possess is superior to that of the unbeliever. We do not suppress knowledge but rather ask all people to seek the true knowledge found in God. Chapters 1 & 2 deal with where true knowledge comes from and it is superior to man's fallible knowledge. Paul does a comparative analysis of the existing knowledge and declares man's knowledge to be lesser and foolish compared to God's. man's knowledge is based on and limited to what God created. What God did not create man cannot know about. If God created things outside of this universe man cannot know about it. So man's knowledge is limited and restricted and cannot know what God knows unless God reveals it. This proves man's knowledge to be indeed inferior to God's and God's knowledge transcends beyond what we know of Him.

2) Paul said the resurrection of Jesus was a historical fact and refuted the erroneous teachings. **1 Cor 1:18-21; 2:6-16).**

In 1 Cor 15:3-19, Paul refuted errors about Christ's person that arose apparently from a religious context in which unbiblical Jewish and Greek ideas were mixed with an acknowledgement, however inadequate, of Jesus Christ. In this context, Paul condemns not philosophy

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

per se, but manmade philosophies that are not “according to Christ” In **Col 2:8-9** Paul warned the believers not to be fooled or swayed by the man-made teachings and ideologies (Philosophies) that are man’s origin that has no foundation in Jesus.

Jude’s Apologetic writings

Said we must put up a great fight for our faith, not be casual about it. (An extensive look at Jude in chapter three).

John’s Apologetics

Stoic and Platonic thought prevailed at the time and people understood that Reason -LOGOS the thing that Governed the universe. In **John 1:1, 14**, John used the notion of this Logos/ word to identify who Jesus is. This idea already in the minds of the reader would help them to understand who Jesus is. However, John revealed that the Logos was a spiritual person who became flesh and was new and foreign to all.

Peter

1 Peter 3:15, “*sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defence [apologia] to everyone who asks you to give an account [logos] for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.*”

There is no doubt that Peter was instructing us Christians to be apologetic **1 Peter 3:13-14, 16-17**. Along with

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

instructing the Church to be Apologetic, we must also engage with proper attitudes toward both the non-Christians with whom we are speaking and the Lord about whom we are speaking: “with gentleness and reverence.” But this is not to be understood that we fear any man. Although reverence i.e., respect towards the people to whom we are speaking is important we bear in our hearts always reverence for God first and this culminates in respect for others.

“(God) Job 38:4, 39,40,41; 1 John 1:1; Acts 17:17; acts 17:22-34; Almost certainly, Peter is telling us to conduct our defence of the faith with an attitude of holy fear or reverence toward Christ, whom we honour as Lord (3:15). We do so by striving to be faithful to Christ both in what we say and in how we live (verse 16).”

[Faith Has Its Reasons: Integrative Approaches to Defending the Christian Faith. By Kenneth Boa, Robert M. Bowman Jr.]

Apologist & Polemists:

(A writer who argues in opposition to others, especially in theology). Their work overlap.

Apologists: focus on but are not limited to views that oppose God and the Church, from without the Church.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Polemics: focus on but are not limited to views from within the Church that differ from the doctrine of the scriptures.

We are all apologists at some time. Apologists in the bible & Church history.

We are all Polemists at some time. Apologists in the bible & Church history.

The two main types of Apologetics

Evidential and Presuppositional

1-Evidential Apologetics:

This type of apologetics involves finding evidence and presenting arguments to defend the Christian faith. This approach does not lead people to Christ. It abandons Christ or salvation temporarily and seeks evidence or proof for God or faith. Although it may seem good to have evidence not all people are moved by evidence.

John 12:37 Although Jesus had performed so many miraculous signs before them, they still refused to believe in him,

John 6:36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Even if God appeared before the person, you are evangelising and performing the greatest miracles people may choose not to believe.

Also, you can prove that the flood is real or that God created the universe, but these don't address salvation in Jesus.

2-Presuppositional Apologetics

A presupposition is needed when looking at scientific evidence. If you do not hold these presuppositions, how will you interpret the evidence? An evolutionist interprets the evidence as pointing to evolution and a Christian interprets the evidence as pointing to God or proof of some part of the scripture.

Usually, science is neutral, it does not prove nor disprove God or evolution.

If you argue or debate from a neutral stand where you abandon your God presuppositions, you cannot defend your faith. You may only be able to show that the evidence does not confirm evolution, but you did not show how the evidence points to God because you abandoned God in your argument.

If a Christian fails to argue from a presuppositional position their arguments don't lead people to Christ

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

directly. Also, many of them have no foundation to stand on and are converted to the other camp. Also, if the Christian decides to let science be the arbitrator of the evidence, then the Christian has lost for science has not brought forward evidence for virgin births, Gods becoming flesh, miracles, or resurrections from the dead. So can't loosely say we follow the science and wherever it leads we will accept it. However, if we hold a presupposition that the scripture is true then when the evidence does not bring support for the scripture we still believe in the authority of the Bible. We do not simply concede. Some call this blind faith but science has so far not contradicted scripture. What we have are scientists who have their presuppositions who look at the same science and claim it contradicts scripture. It's the scientist's presuppositions that contradict scripture, not science. This is why apologists work with scientists who are objective or even Christian scientists to look at the evidence for themselves to verify what it proves. It is clear, that the evolutionary view and the Christian world views are incongruent. You cannot syncretize them, for one denies God created the Earth and the other denies the universe evolved.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

These are two contradictions and only one can be true both cannot be true at the same time.

If according to naturalists/Atheists, secular humanists and evolutionists, matter is all that exists. It has always existed, or it came into existence from nothing. There is nothing outside or before nature, no God and no supernatural. Nature has not always existed in its present form, what we see today is the result of time and chance and the laws of nature working on the matter. Miracles are not possible, because they would be a violation of the laws of nature. Non-material things such as hopes, plans, behaviours, languages, logical inferences, etc., exist, but they are the result of and determined by material causes. there is no purpose or meaning to life, we are simply the product of time and chance and the laws of nature; no moral absolutes that apply to all people at all times; moral values are simply personal beliefs or opinions, which themselves are the result of chemical and physical processes controlling matter. no life after death, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind. no life after death. no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

humans, -----

“then they can have no trust that his thoughts are telling him the truth for they are the result of chemical and physical processes operating in his brain. In fact, in his religion or worldview, objective absolute truth does not exist. Of course, if everything is the result of material causes, then the naturalist has no valid explanation for the origin or truth of the laws of nature that he relies on to understand the world. And if there is no absolute right and wrong, then the atheist cannot object to what Hitler did to the Jews or to what Muslim suicide bombers do to innocent civilians in a shopping mall. Nor could he object if someone entered his home, robbing him of all his valuables and murdering his family. Hitler, the suicide bomber, and the robber/murderer are just doing what they think is right, but their thoughts are dictated by their DNA, which is produced by purposeless, directionless chemical and physical processes. Of course, neither Provine nor Dawkins nor anyone else can live according to this religion of naturalism. To live, the naturalist must steal from the Christian worldview to argue that there is some truth (including the laws of nature) and some things

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

that are right or wrong”. [The Religion of Naturalism by Dr Terry Mortenson on May 5, 2017. Featured in World Religions and Cults Volume 3]

Sorry or a defense?

Defense (yesteryear) -

Sorry (today) & Defense

Today apologists do not use the word apology because it will not be understood even in context.

Natural theology and scriptural theology in apologetics.

Scriptural theology is the use of scripture to defend our faith while Natural theology uses natural things/science/observation to defend the faith. Both are used together however, in days of world evangelists are asked more and more to throw away the Bible and prove God from nature. This is where natural theology comes is mostly used.

Bible as a Dictionary?

“Is the word Transgender in the Bible?” No. “Therefore it is not condemning it”. This is the dictionary approach to studying the bible or the dictionary argument by

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

LGBT supporters. We scan the Bible like a dictionary looking for the definition of a word and cannot find it, so we conclude falsely at times. We have to employ hermeneutic principles that help us use the scriptures better.

Invented or actual doctrines? Since the word transgender is not in the Bible, is the Church inventing a doctrine related to Transgender? No! The Church uses both scriptural and natural theology, i.e., the use of nature, commonsense, biological, psychological, and scientific knowledge to understand transgender. Once it is understood, then we compare it with moral principles in scripture. If it fits the moral code, it is approved but if it violates God's moral code/principles it is disapproved. For example, the word **embezzlement** is not in the dictionary but from our understanding of its meaning in the context it is used, it is stealing. Therefore, the moral code it violates is thou shalt not steal so we say the scripture / God condemns it. The doctrine /teaching of the **nature of man** will deal with this.

How does Apologetics help believers?

You can help enlighten others at Church //bible class about certain things they had discussed before

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

but now you take them deeper. Sometimes you are shedding new light and other times increasing the brightness of the old light.

I spoke on Joshua – new info on the 3 miracles and then brightening the light on his life, mentorship by Moses and the journey of his life on the road to leadership from an ordinary soldier, to general, to a politico-religious leader and a vessel of God.

It strengthens your faith.

It strengthens the faith of other believers you share with.

It strengthens your confidence in evangelism.

It provides strong arguments that dismantle secular nonsense.

Presuppositional apologetics helps you understand the necessity of God in everything including your discussions, especially with unbelievers. If you leave out God in this conversation you can't lead people to God.

The various types of apologetic camps.

Intelligent Design Movement [IDM],

Presuppositionalism

Old Earthers (theistic evolution).

Audience

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Those in Acts 2 and Acts 17

The real battle

why is it that Darwin's evolution has not been proven by science nor is it proof of a scientific theory, why does evolution still exist and why am I being pushed so much, and why are they continuously challenging Christianity in debates? It is because the battle is about who controls the authority.

1] Science is seen as a reputable authority. Who speaks for it and whom does it speak for? Who controls science and will be seen as the authority on earth?

2] whose voice should be heard concerning the origin of the universe and the origin of life? Whom should people listen to?

In other words, who is the authority? Is it God or man? This is a cleverly orchestrated and calculated battle designed by an intelligent being. I am not talking about humans. There, powers exist in a different realm that is very active and not passive. On the right we have God and on the left Satan.

Chapter 2

A specific theological discipline

“It was not until 1794 that apologetics was used to designate a specific theological discipline,³ and there has been debate about the place of this discipline in Christian thought almost from that time forward. In 1908 B. B. Warfield catalogued some of these alternate perceptions before offering his conclusion that apologetics should be given the broad task of authenticating the facts of God (philosophical apologetics), religious consciousness (psychological apologetics), revelation (revelational apologetics), Christianity (historical apologetics), and the Bible (bibliological apologetics, Warfield’s speciality)”. [Greg L. Bahnsen, “Socrates or Christ: The Reformation of Christian Apologetics,” in Foundations of Christian Scholarship: Essays in the Van Til Perspective, ed. Gary North (Vallecito, Calif.: Ross House, 1976), 191.]

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Greg L. Bahnsen summarizes Warfield's catalogue: An apologist is someone who presents an apology or makes a practice of defending the faith.

Apologists might (and do) develop their apologies within various intellectual contexts. That is, they may offer defences of the Christian faith about scientific, historical, philosophical, ethical, religious, theological, or cultural issues. The terms apologetic and apologetics are closely related, and can be used synonymously.... An apologetic (using the word as a noun) will be here defined as a particular approach to the defence of the faith. Of course, we often use apologetic as an adjective, as when we speak about apologetic issues....

“Apologetics, on the other hand, has been used in at least three ways. Perhaps most commonly it 1-refers to the discipline concerned with the defence of the faith. (a branch of knowledge, typically one studied in higher education)

2-Second, it can refer to a general grouping of approaches or systems developed for defending the faith, as when we speak about evidentialist apologetics or Reformed apologetics (focus on revelation-God said it).

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

3-Third, it is sometimes used to refer to the practice of defending the faith—as the activity of presenting an apology or apologies in defence of the faith. These three usages are easily distinguished by context, so we will employ all three in this book.” Finally, metapologetics refers to the study of the nature and methods of apologetics. This term has come into usage only recently and is still rarely used. Mark Hanna defined it as “the field of inquiry that examines the methods, concepts, and foundations of apologetic systems and perspectives.” While apologetics studies the defence of the faith, metapologetics studies the theoretical issues underlying the defence of the faith. It is evident, then, that metapologetics is a branch of apologetics; it focuses on the principal, fundamental questions that must be answered properly if the practice of apologetics is to be securely grounded in truth.” [Faith Has Its Reasons: Integrative Approaches to Defending the Christian Faith By Kenneth Boa, Robert M. Bowman Jr.]

Chapter 3

Adopt an apologetic attitude

Apologists do three things, rebuke, correct and teach.

1. When rebuking they **point out the errors** that persons within and without the faith may associate with the Christian faith i.e. scripture, the Christian living, Jesus and God etc.
2. When correcting, their focus on two things-
 - a. **Heresies** which are false doctrines within the Church. (believers)
 - b. **False accusations** about our faith from outside of the Church. (non-believers)
3. **When teaching the focus is on truth claims** found within scripture (the word of God) not the opinions of the believers or non-believers.

Apologists are teachers who find themselves more on the side of **correcting errors and instructing in truths** to both the **Church and the unsaved**.

Paul, Jude, Peter, and John called on the Church to have an apologetical attitude in and out of the

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Church. They instruct us to be apologetic. It is necessary to have an apologetical attitude. Many of us are apologetic and don't realise it.

What is an apologetical attitude?

Jude 1:3-4; (3) *Dear friends, although I have been eager to write to you about our common salvation, I now feel **compelled** instead to write to **encourage** you to **contend earnestly** for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. (4) For certain men have secretly slipped in among you – men who long ago were marked out for the condemnation I am about to describe – ungodly men who have **turned the grace of our God into a license for evil** and who deny our only **Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.***

Understanding Arguments

An argument is not a bad thing. All of us use arguments daily and we all use arguments to understand the Bible. What we don't like is the dispute which is a disagreement that can result from arguments but when the same arguments result in agreement then we like arguments and agree with the goal of our arguments and in our Bible study and therefore the argument is encouraged. So, the argument is not the problem. We can have a bad or a good argument which has nothing to do with agreeing or disagreeing at all. A bad or good argument has to do with form or structure and has nothing to do with the dispute. Dispute or disagreement is usually what

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

people call a quarrel. Paul had many disputes of course. Disputes are natural because world views differ therefore a dispute is inevitable. Likewise, because of similar world views agreements also can come naturally, however, some agreements require persuasion.

Using hermeneutics to study the Bible we practice inductive logic rather than deductive logic and in either case, we are always practising and using argument. **1- Jude 1: vs 3-4** are saying men come into Church and people understand this to mean the four walls where people may meet. No, the people are the Church, and this is referring to people trying to steal believers through enticing or cunning words anywhere. This is not location sensitive. You may be on YouTube, WhatsApp, watch TV, read a book, on the bus, on the street etc. and anyone can bring false teaching to you to lead you astray. So, you may give a defence or an apology anywhere (location) that you the Church approached.

2- Paul disputed with the Jews **Acts 17:17** and almost every synagogue they followed him disputing. Was Paul sent to dispute, no? He was to preach the good news that the Messiah they were looking for has come. But it became a dispute because they may have asked him to prove from scripture his statements about Jesus, resurrection, Sabbath, meat, circumcision etc. Paul would have formed arguments by using the O.T. to prove Jesus as Apollos did.

3- **Acts 18:27** *When Apollos resolved to cross over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On his arrival, he greatly aided those who by grace had believed. 28* For he powerfully **refuted** the Jews in **public**

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

debate, proving by the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ. Christian apologetics/defence was very early and active in the Church. Apollos used arguments from the scripture to prove Jesus.

*(Acts 19:8 [KJV]) And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, **disputing and persuading** the things concerning the kingdom of God.⁹ But when divers were hardened and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. ¹⁰ And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.* There is nothing wrong with arguments, disputes, and persuasion. Paul did it for three years daily and encouraged the disciples to join him. He mentored them in this regard. We see persuasion as a good approach to use when leading someone to Christ. *(Acts 26:28) Then Agrippa said unto Paul, you almost persuaded me to be a Christian.*

4- *(Acts 9:22) But Saul became more and more capable and was causing consternation among the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.* To prove Jesus, Paul had to make arguments. Also, all of us make arguments. If the argument is accepted, then we have an agreement when it is not then we may have a dispute/ disagreement.

5- *(Acts 17:19-34 [NET2])* Here is a summary of Paul's arguments by Luke. Paul in *acts 17:10-34* spoke about, superstition, their ignorance (error or wrong), "race", population, resurrection, creative power of God over the universe and also life, God's estate and needs, worship, his omniscience,

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

predestination, human existence is dependent on God, idolatry, repentance, resurrection and judgment.

I will present five of Paul's arguments in this chapter for clarity.

1] One – (24)

God is the creator of the universe

The universe is his home

Man's little brick temples cannot contain him.

This is not only valid but a sound argument. So with arguments like these, they could not refute Paul.

4] Two— (25)

God gives life

God does not need life

Therefore, God does not need anything from man.

3] Three –(29)

If God is our Father

And we are his children

We cannot create our Father.

4] Four –(29)

If God is our creator Father

And we are his children

Then the true God cannot in turn be created from the things he created (Gold or art).

5] Five--

If God is a living Father

Our life depends on him

Therefore, it is foolish to create a non-living sculpture and worship it.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Paul dropped **powerful, defensible, persuasive arguments** that *destroyed and pull down lofty thoughts of the Philosophers, that set themselves up against God, subduing these ideas and setting free some of the philosophers to believe.*

-Jude said he wanted to talk about common salvation issues, but **he had to change the topic**. What could be more important than teaching the word of God? He does not want us to only know the word of God but to have an apologetic/defensive attitude towards the word of God. Don't just know the truth but use the truth to rebuke, correct and teach anyone.

I trust the above arguments were used persuasively to achieve the one goal of the agreement were successful.

Have an apologetical attitude towards it. Fight for it and defend it. Jude's focus is on our attitude toward our faith and towards those who threaten it. Therefore, **he had to teach the importance and need to defend our faith and have an apologetic attitude and behaviour towards Christians because it was necessary**. It is of necessity (not because you may or may not) it is needed within the Church. **Something evil is happening**. Men are coming in and saying things errors and lies that are drawing you from the faith and no one is contending with them. Don't let people tell you Jesus is still dead because dead people can't rise. Stand up and defend what you believe. Show them the healed people in the

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Church, show them the people who prophesy, the tongue speakers, all of the evidence of the power of the Holy Spirit God with us. Jesus after he rose from the dead said he will send this power by the Holy Spirit as proof Jesus is alive. Jude inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote this scripture to them and the Church then has always faced this persecution from within and from without even till now. Many believers have continued in this vain preached by Jude. They have not sat back and allowed people to trample on the Church and do what they feel like.

2Cor 10:5 [KJV] *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*; who is casting down? **We are told to throw down.**

What are we casting down reasoning (intellectual thought) that rises against whose knowledge- God's knowledge and captures the thinking so that the person may be obedient to Christ and not their thinking? When we cast down, **we are capturing false ideas and errors leading people to Christ.**

1Pet 3:15 [KJV] *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear*: How are we to be apologetic? Our hearts must be purified with Jesus. **Always be in ready** does not mean being intellectually and attitude but also we must strive to be pure. For the vessel does nothing on its own without God. **Give an answer don't be shy or afraid.** It is with humility knowing the knowledge is not ours but God's and we are his humble servants. But this humility comes from sanctifying God in our minds first.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

(2Pet 2:1 [NET2]) *But false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. These false teachers will infiltrate your midst with destructive heresies, even to the point of denying the Master who bought them. As a result, they will bring swift destruction to themselves. (2)And many shall follow their pernicious (destructive) ways; because of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

Peter did not ask if we have any false teachers in our midst, he told us there are false teachers in this Church. He said they infiltrate the Church with heresies (false teachings) that destroy. They even teach that Jesus has not risen/is not the Messiah (the redeemer who bought them) etc. Many will follow them. AND BECAUSE of this, the truth will be slandered.

Titus 1:9 [KJV] *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.* Adhere/stick like glue to your teaching. This way you will be able to truthfully teach encourage and persuade those who contradict the teaching you have. We are being taught that we must **persuade /prove** contradictions to the truth and **encourage** the believers.

2Tim 2:16-18 *But shun profane (blasphemous) and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. (17) And their word will eat as doth a canker (disease): of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; (18) Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.* Stay away from blasphemous conversations like the ones Hymenaeus and Philetus that bear ungodly fruit. Don't engage in it. What were they saying? They spoke heresies or errors and not the truth. They say that

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Jesus has raised the dead already and people believe them and have left the Church. The rapture had happened. Why will people leave the Church? Because if Jesus returned already and resurrected the dead then there is no more need for them to continue believing for, they have been left behind. Paul had to deal with this with the Thessalonians. (2Thess 2:3 [KJV]) **Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first (an apostasy), and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition (destruction);**

1Tim 4:1 [NET2]) *Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the latter times some will desert the faith and occupy themselves with deceiving spirits and demonic teachings,* Scripture confirms that there will be believers who leave the faith for false teachings. A believer who gets sound teaching can recognise the ways of the devil and not be deceived. Sound teaching helps us discern false teachings. If we do what we are told -to deal with it (*which may be before it comes into the Church and*) when it comes into the Church, we will be protecting the flock.

(2Tim 3:16-17 [KJV]) *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:(17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

When rebuking you **point out the errors** that persons within and without the faith may associate with the Christian faith i.e., scripture, the Christian living, Jesus and God etc.

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

When correcting, your focus is on two things- **Heresies** which are false doctrines within the Church. **False accusations** about our faith from outside of the Church. **When teaching the focus is on truth claims** found within scripture (the word of God) not the opinions of the believers or non-believers.

(1 John 4:1 [KJV]) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ comes in the flesh is of God: John includes himself must be tested. **Test all not some.** Test the **Pastor, Deacon, Elder, evangelist, and Ministry leader**-all means all. When they preach **open your Bible** When they teach open your Bible ask questions and **take them to task if needed. Don't say he is a man or woman of God, or they are our leader so they cannot ever be wrong.**

How do we test a spirit? he said these spirits have false teachings. So, test them with the word of truth- **put them to the sword of truth.**

Jude said it, Paul, Peter, John and also the Holy Spirit said, false teachers. There seemed to be quite a few coming out of the believers.

Chapter 4

Is apologetics a distraction from the work of the Church?

1- What is the focus of the church or purpose?

Some say the discussion of LGBT is a distraction from the focus of the church.

Is sin within the church or country our business? If pastor ben marries two men in the church or begins to advocate for same-sex marriage and preach and teach it, then it is our business. If the government wants to pass a law that wants to prevent evangelism, the preaching against the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, ban the assembling of the church because the Bible and the church oppose sin. Then this is not the church's focus or business because it is a distraction from the work of the church. This is a clear contradiction.

Evangelism is the business of the church and if the government tries to prevent you from preaching, then it must be our business.

2-What is our focus within the body:

we disciple the body. But within the congregation, we are people who are confused concerning homosexuality and will unrepentantly defend it in Bible class, and Sunday school, and push for it in the congregational audience.

3-Indistinguishable from the world. They need to repent and if they are unwilling to repent and to continue to blaspheme against God then we can't be of equal yolk. Disassociation is necessary otherwise we look as if we support this unrighteous behaviour.

4-Jude 1:

5- Use the stage God gives to you.

if you preach from a social media platform e.g., TV, Radio, Newspaper, Facebook, CBC, blog, YouTube etc. and evil is happening in the world -an increase in murder, violence, abortion, sexual perversion, will you tell all sinners to repent? of course.

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

If you are invited to speak to an audience on sin will you go? Of course, if the sin is homosexuality go and be the light of the world.

Sometimes we limit the work of the church to only activity within the four walls. Jesus went to the world and told his disciples to go to the world. This is not an activity that takes place within the four walls.

When you go to the world you meet the world where it is at with all of its sins and what sins it is caught up in at the time depending on where you are and the time you are in. you respond boldly you those sins on whatever platform God may give you. There are many forms of evangelism, and we sometimes want to limit the various methods of modern evangelism and outreach.

The street preacher meets a variety of sin or antichrist spirits and must rebuke regularly. Another preacher who operates from the confines of the four walls speaks about these spirits in theory.

When we operate within a small, confined space that is ok but others are given to operate at a world scale (look at Paul and the apostles who travelled and operated on the world stage). Both spaces achieve God's vision and mission.

Chapter 5

Apologetics Ministry

Apologetics and Evangelism

Similarities

Evangelist: one who brings the good news and defends the good news they bring. May ignore Hitler's statements or views that don't directly impact the gospel message.

Apologist: one who **brings** the good news and **defends** the good news they bring (refuting arguments against the Church that arise from outside of the Church). Usually responds to issues affecting the gospel, God, and the Church directly and indirectly. They sometimes in responding, start with the gospel and ends with a defence of the gospel or start by defending and finish with the Gospel.

Difference

The Evangelist focuses on the unsaved while the Apologist focuses on both the unsaved and the saved (to strengthen believers).

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Apologetics & discipleship

(Sunday school, preaching, Bible class, youth ministry, ISCF)

No special status:

Apologetics are not separate people from evangelists. They are not of higher status as may appear in the modern apologetics movement. Some Christians claim they moved to an apologetics-based Church. In America, they have their ministries. People want to hear more Apologetics in their Preaching cycle. They are seen as very special people and regarded highly by some. It is not the person but the role.

We are all Apologists:

Apologetics is a verb apologise or action of a preacher or an evangelist. When you are evangelising, you don't take the preacher, the evangelist, or the apologist, it is you and the Holy Spirit. It is mainly a company of two. When you share the good news, you are evangelising-you are an evangelist, the method you use is called preaching-you are a preacher, and when you defend your faith, you are being apologetic. All three were done by

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

the same person. Every Christian will give an apology at some time.

All apologetics as a course of study is a detailed analysis and systematic teaching of the responses and arguments that evangelists give when evangelising. We examine these defences and their origin and we bolster them with supporting arguments. We examine their strengths and weaknesses or how sound they are and refine our arguments.

The audience of the apologist

Acts 2 vs Acts 17 apologetics/evangelism.

Evangelism done wrong. The older generation today grew up in an acts 2 culture Which had a foundation in the scriptures concerning God and the fall of man's judgment they also had a structure that was built on that which is the gospel. Barbados used to be an acts 2 culture-prayer in the school, bible in the school, prayer at public events, teachings from the Bible at school, Christmas nativity plays, businesses closed on the weekends for church, easter recognition and plays, movies about God, shown on those occasions, etc. But today it is increasingly an acts 17 culture.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

	ACTS 2 CULTURE	ACTS 17
	Believer	Non-believer
Foundation	Jew/Muslim/ Churchgoer	Evolution /other
Structure	Understand the terms/language or message of the gospel	Don't understand
Result	Stumbling block	Foolishness

Christian/ Jew/Muslim-based culture you can begin teaching as in Act 2 But in an act 17 culture which is evolutionary, pantheistic & philosophically based you have to start with the foundation. To the Greeks starting your message with Act 2 the gospel will not lead to the cross. The gospel is built on a foundation. The New Testament is built on the Old Testament foundation. To get the Greeks to understand the message of the cross so that is not foolishness. We must get him off the wrong road or starting point.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

1. We must take them back to the beginning- show them this is not about many Gods but the only God, not a theory but reality, not about the philosophy of morality but it is morality and punishment emanating from God, not live then die but life after death. Paul defined whom God is first teaching the basics. You can't skip the foundation or you will have big holes in your knowledge. Paul knew the history and so he laid the foundation and then built on it with the gospel. So, then the cross is going to make sense and has now a good foundation to stand on. If the audience does not have that strong foundation, then your message of the cross will be weak.

2. After Paul laid the foundation of the Old Testament, he jumped into the New Testament Gospel. Now after the gospel there were three responses.
 - a. People scoffed at the message.
 - b. Some wanted more information.
 - c. Some believed (that God raised them from the dead)

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

The structure of the Church is built on Jesus (the logos/word) the cornerstone, He is not only the embodiment of the old covenant but its fulfilment. Like Jesus, the word becomes the embodiment of the New Covenant. The Church is built on the testimony of the prophets and the apostles.

The starting point is key.

Races-If I was addressing an audience that believe we were made up of many races and each race had a different origin and I will ignore this information and begin speaking that we are all one family we should love each other, this would not make sense and they will think I am an idiot. Instead, if I showed them that we are all created by God and originated from one man and one woman and that we adapted and showed variations in the race that make us look like many different races then they can be on the same page as I am. Now I can begin to teach the message of unity and love.

We have those who have an incorrect or perverted foundation that camouflages as the true foundation. Why is it that so many Christians today read the Bible by starting at the end and not at the beginning? Do we read books and watch movies at the very end and skip the beginning? We teach

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

people to be more concerned about the end things than the beginning and it is at the beginning that we have lost biblical authority in our culture.

The following” website had this to say about Paul in Athens Greece.

[Nothing but the Cross – Words of Hope \(woh.org\)](http://www.woh.org)

“Paul came to Corinth speaking the gospel in simple terms. He had just journeyed there from Athens where he had drawn on his education and tried to communicate the gospel in the style of a philosopher. He even quoted from the Greek poets. The result? The great missionary fell flat on his face. I can picture him entering into his diary, “Don’t ever try this again. The cross doesn’t need my verbal decorations.” But (back) in Corinth he told the people the simple gospel. The gospel itself supplied the power as Paul spoke. It was that gospel that established the church, God’s redeemed community”.

This is false. Act 17: an approach to Philosophers who did not have a basis for believing in the God of the Bible or even in Jesus was different to the simple gospel message. He had to start at the very beginning of defining who is God and walk them to

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Jesus and the cross. To this audience you don't start at the cross for the cross is foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling block to the Jews. This Acts 17 evangelism was successful, versus the Acts 2 approach used against Hebrews/ Jews who already had a belief foundation in God. So, there was no need to start at the beginning but start with the gospel.

The Theologians and their levels of Theology

Street,
Layman,
Clergy,
Professional,

Tragedy suffers; murderers and persons on death row;
boys on the block; other faiths; anti-theistic theories; -
deceased

Sanctification and apologetics in evangelism.

1Pet 3:15 (sanctify) But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Apologists- were usually Christian leaders who responded to persecution and accusations against their faith by external sources e.g. government.

Polemics- were usually Christian leaders mostly Bishops who responded to heresies from within the Church.

Evangelism- Everyone who defends is an apologist therefore every religion, lawyers, and even the LGBT have apologists. Some pro-gay theologians go to Churches teaching revised scripture that favours LGBT.

every Christian will give an ‘apology’ at some time. Apologists are evangelists first. It is because of God that we reply and give defences. In recent times it is common for the person you are evangelizing to say put away that bible and prove to me there is a God or why should I believe Christianity is the true religion.

Glorified apologists- I have noticed that apologists today have ministries in their name. They should not get any special treatment as if they are in some hierarchy or have a religious status above others. The focus should not be on you but the message.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS: vincent smith

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

Apologetical Churches?? Give God the glory, not ourselves. We may be a Pastor/Elder of a Church and may focus on an apologetic approach in our teachings but we are not apologetic Churches. We can easily run away with labels. We are simply the Church the body of Christ.

REASON AND FAITH APOLOGETICS

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