

Christian Apologetic Paper

Apologetic Science PhD Candidates Submitted to the Management of East African Polytechnic College
Kyambogo for the Award of A Doctoral Professional Diploma in Apologetic Science

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LETTER OF AUTHORISATION

I NALOKA BAKER FREDERICK do here by attest that the presented Christian Apologetic Book is truthful, current and accurate to my best of knowledge.



Sign.....

Date:30-09-2023.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my special thanks of gratitude to my group members as well as our research supervisor Professor Kibalama Johnson and his assistant; Dr. Kitaka who introduced to me this program and encouraged me to take it on with all the responsibilities that I hold. I never knew I could handle it, however the encouragement and time invested to show me that it is possible was and is all worth it.

LETTER OF TRASMITAL

I submit in my CHRISTIAN APOLOGETIC PAPER. The assignment has been completed by the knowledge I gathered from different sources of literature.

I am thankful to all those persons who provided me important information and gave me valuable advice. I will be happy if you read this proposal carefully and thoroughly.

I have tried to complete this assignment meaningfully and correctly, as much as possible.

However, if you need any assistance in interpreting this assignment, please contact me without hesitation.



Signature.....
Date.....30-09-2023.....

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the following people for the support they rendered during my research work. My work colleagues, that have been a vital factor to my coming up with this work research and I would not have achieved this without their support, further more I dedicated my work to my supervisor and group members that have stood with me in discussions and encouraged me to run with perseverance.

Unto my parents, who saw the best in me, one who turned many door handles to get me into a place that could support and sponsor my education.

Unto my wonderful wife and children that have at times missed out on being with me, and have had to put up with me when I was stressing with deadlines.

DECLARATION

I NALOKA BAKER FREDERICK declare that the Christian Apologetic Book is my own original composition and it has never been submitted to any institution of higher learning

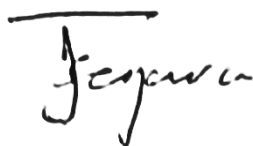
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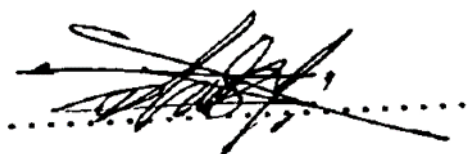
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➤ *Academic Peer Review*

This is a well-researched Apologetic Science Research Report for PhD course. It will help church leaders to defend the Christian faith confidently.



Sign.....Date.....20-11-2023.....

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ABSTRACT

The English word "apology" is derived from the Greek word Apologia, which meaning "to give a defense." So, Christian apologetics is the science of defending the Christian faith. Although it is derived from the same word as the English noun "apology" and adjective "apologetic," it has a quite distinct connotation. An apologia in ancient Greek alluded to a legal defense of oneself, comparable to the speech a modern-day defense lawyer could give on behalf of their client.

As a result, while the word apologia has roots in ancient Greek culture, the art and science of apologetics as we know it today may be as old as man. In the face of an increasingly secular society, a new answer to the Bible's adversaries is required.

The purpose of this Paper is to equip Christians to "confront the Bible's critics and respond to all of the major challenges to the inspiration and authority of Scripture."

This Christian Apologetics Paper is a comprehensive resource designed to empower and excite believers by offering facts to defend and explain their faith. This paper examines nearly every key issue, person, and concept related to Christian apologetics, clearly explaining various philosophical systems and concepts, examining contemporary issues and challenges, and providing classic apologetic arguments, all with the goal of providing readers with the background to discuss their Christian faith with skeptics intelligently, confidently, and persuasively.

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CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

➤ *Statement of the Problem:*

To produce an Apologetic robust response to the pervasive serious heresies being propagated by church leaders themselves. This would be used as a curriculum module for PhD Apologetic Science candidates.

➤ *Research Methodology*

The study used literature review mainly from textbooks, interment and research papers.

➤ *Problems Encountered in this Research*

The key issue in this study was gathering all of the necessary information in one place. To obtain the necessary knowledge, I had to conduct extensive literature research. There was an issue with reading, reviewing, and creating literature that sprang from a failure to properly describe what the reviewer wanted and how to go about seeking for it in a thorough manner from the start. It was especially difficult to distinguish resources for Polemics from those for Apologetics. Other restraints included money and time.

➤ *Definition*

The science of defending the Christian faith is known as apologetics. Apologetics is about fighting the good fight of faith; laying hold on eternal life- the knowledge of the One and Only True God and Jesus Christ- and rejecting all other forms of lies, trickeries and cunning deceptions of the devil perpetrated through human agents, the ultimate goal being, the destruction of human lives". Apologetics is about simultaneously standing for the truth on one hand, and against falsehood, on the other.

Apologetics is the task of developing and sharing arguments for the truth and rationality of Christianity and the falsehood and irrationality of alternatives with the aim of strengthening the faith of believers and provoking nonbelievers to consider Christ.

Probably the key verses for Christian apologetics are: (Jude 3 and 1 Peter 3:15) which admonishes us to be prepared always to give an answer for the hope we have and to contend for the Christian religion.

Every Christian should be able to present his or her faith in Christ in a fair manner. Not every Christian needs to be an apologetics expert, but he or she should understand what they believe, why they believe it, how to share it with others, and how to defend it against lies and attacks.

The second half of 1 Peter 3:15, "*but do this with gentleness and respect...*" is another aspect of Christian apologetics that is frequently overlooked. Using apologetics to defend the Christian faith should never require being unpleasant, angry, or disrespectful; instead, we should endeavor to be forceful in our argument while still being Christ-like in our presentation.

Simply put, it is the rational solution to the objections raised against Christianity. And there have been many dissenters during the last 2,000 years. So, if you prefer a reasoned reaction to a frustrated folding of the arms and reluctance to engage, apologetics has something for you.

➤ *Fundamental Methods of Christian Apologetics*

There are two main approaches to Christian apologetics.

The first, known as classical apologetics, entails exchanging proofs and evidences that the Christian message is true.

The second style of apologetics, dubbed "presuppositional" apologetics, involves addressing the presuppositions (preconceived concepts, assumptions) that drive anti-Christian arguments. Proponents of the two Christian apologetic systems regularly disagree about which strategy is more effective. Using both tactics looks to be much more productive, depending on the individual and scenario.

➤ *Types of Apologetics*

Many reactions and arguments develop as a result of diverse persons with different origins and preconceived beliefs about Christianity posing different challenges and inquiries. Certain people have mastered a variety of argument methods.

Christian apologetics is an essential component of the Christian life. (1 Peter 3:15). We are all instructed to be ready and equipped to proclaim the gospel and defend our faith. That is what Christian apologetics is all about.

Apologetics, as opposed to Polemics, is concerned with defending the Christian faith against critics both within and outside the faith, whereas Polemics is concerned with identifying mistakes in people's beliefs. Both have something to do with the intellectual defense of belief systems. Apologetics is frequently used as a sort of pre-evangelism to answer reasonable doubts

about the validity of Christianity that a seeker may have. It is used to remove impediments to someone coming to a saving faith in and understanding of Jesus Christ. Apologetics is something that every sincere believer should be involved in and learn to do, even if only on occasion, like Paul did (Acts 22:1, 22:1).

Apologetics is not about winning arguments, but about pointing people to Christ and the Gospel and respond to the criticisms leveled at it.

Apologetics is classified into two or more types: biblical and historical. This style seeks to establish the Bible's trustworthiness, canon, and claims with textual and historical evidence. To provide clarity and evidence for the Bible's historical reality, this method investigates archaeological sites, the age and authenticity of original materials, and occasionally apparent inconsistencies in the Bible.

• *Within this Larger Area, Apologists Look into the following Topics:*

- ✓ Jesus' miracles
- ✓ The fulfillment of Old Testament predictions by Jesus
- ✓ Historical proof for contentious Old Testament events
- ✓ The reliability of first-hand accounts of Christ's life.

Moral and philosophical arguments are other second significant types of apologetics. Moral arguments investigate the ethical implications of God's existence. They look at whether man is intrinsically good or evil, and how the Bible answers moral quandaries. Philosophical debates address the larger questions of whether God exists and, if so, what kind of God exists.

Moral - Because morality is objective, there must be a moral God.

Transcendental - Because humanity believes in the existence of God.

God's existence is required by fundamental human beliefs.

The other third significant type of apologetics is scientific apologetics. This type typically addresses scientific issues brought by the Bible. Is the Creation story true? Is there scientific evidence of a global flood? Is the Bible capable of answering scientific questions? Christian scientists are presently investigating some of these issues. Another line of argument exposes weaknesses in evolution, Darwinism, and the scientific and academic communities' core belief that God plays no role in science. While there are many minor sub-categories of apologetic reasoning, these are the most comprehensive and extensively employed.

CHAPTER TWO

WHAT IS AN APOLOGIST EXACTLY?

Apologists work in apologetics, a branch of theology concerned with defending the Christian faith. An apologist is someone who defends the Christian religion using evidence from the Bible, logic, and other empirical and intellectual sources. The theme verse of an apologist could be found in First Peter 3:15: *"Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for your hope." However, proceed with caution and respect.*"

The apostle Paul was a skilled apologist. In Thessalonica, he *"went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead"* (Acts 17:2-3).

Paul was soon at Athens, where he met with Greek philosophers at the Areopagus (Acts 17:22-24). He also defended the gospel in front of monarchs, putting pressure on them to respond (Acts 26:26-28). Paul also provided intellectual justification for faith in Acts 17:1-3, 19:8-10, 26:26-28, and 18:27-28).

There are two types of Christian apologists: Researchers and Instructors. Apologists are among the researchers who are continually looking for innovative ways to respond to mounting religion challenges. They are currently developing new arguments. Their work includes knowing how to speak at the highest levels of academia, combining research from peer-reviewed journals, and carefully integrating the Christian worldview. Because their background needs a rare blend of intellectual knowledge, this type of Apologist is uncommon. Apologists Researchers are more likely to produce resources that are useful and ideal for sharing with an unbeliever. In this area, we have the following books in our research tray:

Understanding Christian Foundations, Mortality And Destiny After Death, Principles of Bible Interpretation, Generation Curses, and other topics.

The second kind of apologist is what I refer to as an educator. These Apologists rephrase the study content for laypeople or students. They are exceptional communicators who can explain complex concepts to a wide audience. This category includes many well-known apologists on the speaking circuit.

➤ *Is this Person Able to Describe his or her Research to Others?*

Communicating their findings is one of the most difficult things for apologists who are also researchers. The key area of disagreement here is the trade-off between accessibility and accuracy. Researchers with strong communication skills are in short supply, including Carl Sagan, Justine Peters, Voddie Baucham, John MacArthur, Mulewa, Sunday Adelaja, Professor Walter Martins, and Brian Green. They typically enjoy delving into the research's specifics.

Apologists who are educators generally make a name for themselves because of their exceptional communication abilities to a wider audience.

These are often the people that thrive on the apologetics speaking circuit. Their talks are ideal for sharing with students or those who are fresh to the apologetics debate. However, they may not have the highest academic credentials, therefore they should proceed with caution when sharing materials from Researchers with nonbelievers.

The bottom line is to know your audience. Choose something from a researcher if you want to present a resource to an unbeliever or a Christian who is looking for more nuanced answers. Hiring an educator with good public speaking skills is often desirable if you're trying to introduce apologetics to a youth group or a mom's group that has no prior knowledge of the subject.

Apologists must understand the Bible and Christian theology. Some well-known Christian apologists include Norman Geisler, Josh McDowell, William Lane Craig, Lee Strobel, and Daniel B. Wallace.

All Christians, to some extent, should be apologists. Every believer should be able to present the faith logically (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:25). This is not to say that everyone should be an apologetics specialist, but Christians should comprehend the what, why, and how of expressing their beliefs with others who ask. And we should know enough about the Bible to defend our faith against atheists.

More than ever, society is questioning and opposing the Christian community. Unfortunately, the foundations of church theology are also under attack from inside as Paul predicted in Acts 20:29-30. Some in the church twist the Scriptures to suit their own desires, [gathering] a great number of teachers around them to say what their itching ears want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3; see also Revelation 2:20).

According to Barna Group and USA Today data, nearly 75% of Christian high school graduates leave the church. Intellectual doubt, attacks on their religion by godless professors, and persistent peer pressure to adopt the things of the world (1 John 2:15-16) are just a few of the elements that have contributed to this fallaway. Some of this spiritual degradation may be mitigated through apologetics training.

The hope that we have inside us (1 Peter 3:15) is central to Christian apologetics, and Jesus is the source of that hope (see Titus 2:13). *"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven,"* Jesus says (Matthew 10:32; also see 2 Timothy 1:8).

Though we must defend our faith with certainty and zeal, Christians must also engage in apologetics with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15). *"The Lord's servant must not be a quarrelsome man, but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and not resentful"* (2 Timothy 2:24). (Ephesians 4:15) The truth must be conveyed in love.

An apologist must love people in addition to knowing the Bible. The goal of apologetics is to lead people to a knowledge of the truth that will set them free (John 8:32). Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading to knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

➤ *A Good Apologist has the following Characteristics.*

- *Theological Responsibility.*

A successful Christian group must build a firm stance on biblical principles that extends beyond charismatic leadership. A specific belief must be present, and everyone is directed toward sustaining the beliefs. An effective apologist makes certain that people who have been trained have a guide to utilize as a yardstick. All precautions must be taken to ensure that there is no deviation from the course.

- *Educate Yourself.*

Being a Christian apologist demands knowledge of a wide range of – and frequently disparate – subjects of study. A thorough educational foundation, preferably including a PhD, is required if you wish to be a Research Apologist.

Each facet of education is an important endeavor in its own right. A good apologist, on the other hand, will not only grasp several sciences, but will also understand how to integrate those professions into a coherent worldview. To become a scientific apologist, you must have a master's degree (preferably a PhD) in a scientific field (e.g., physics, astronomy, biochemistry, or marine biology), as well as graduate-level study in theology, Bible interpretation, church history, or philosophy.

These seminars can teach you how to integrate your scientific understanding with the Bible. It's also a tremendous benefit if Christian Apologists have also studied other disciplines. Take a language class or an art class. Read as much as you can on a variety of topics, including classic literature. This will help you become a more well-rounded person.

- *The Practice of Evangelism in the Real World*

It takes more than a formal education to be an effective Christian apologist. The best Christian apologists understand how to deliberately engage unbelievers and bring them to faith in Jesus as their Savior. Unfortunately, many people who bear the title "Christian apologist" lack actual ability in communicating their beliefs to nonbelievers.

Some have never worked in a secular environment and have limited experience speaking with persons of different worldviews. As a result, they have not had the opportunity to practice defending their opinions in real-life situations.

There is no substitute for conversing face-to-face with unbelievers for a decade (or longer), receiving unpleasant feedback, having numerous seemingly pointless conversations, and changing those "failures" into the human talents required to genuinely love others.

You must first get field or laboratory experience if you want to work in scientific apologetics. This will allow you to demonstrate creative problem-solving skills, a strong work ethic, and leadership talents, as well as discover new ways to communicate your religion. The more practical experience you have as a missionary engaged in a secular sector, the more likely you will become a credible apologist.

➤ *Character Development*

As you practice your evangelism skills, you must be diligent about gaining Christian maturity (what Protestants call "sanctification"). Christian apologists who take their time understand not only how to provide sound answers, but also how to present them in a way that invites the other person to continue the conversation.

You may become upset when certain discussions do not go as expected. Unbelievers will sometimes mischaracterize your beliefs or say nasty things to you. There will be moments when you will look back and realize you gave incorrect information or made weak arguments.

These are the times when you can allow the Lord to guide you deeper into your soul as you work with him to shape your character into the image of Christ.

Winning arguments isn't nearly as important as behaving elegantly throughout a conflict such that the other side wants to stay in your relationship. If you lose a connection because you came on too strong, use it as constructive feedback and possibly ask forgiveness from the person. A high degree of education will not make up for a lack of grace. Another crucial character trait for Christian apologists to strive for is the capacity to explain the opinions of others fairly and accurately. It is vital to pay close attention. You communicate opposing perspectives in such a way that if the person holding that opinion heard your summary, they would say, "Yes, that's an accurate statement about what I believe." It is vital to allow for comments and correction while presenting other people's thoughts. This is part of what senior study scholar Kenneth Samples refers to as the Apologetics Golden Rule.

Top-tier Communication Skills Christian apologists can convey their research to others verbally and in writing. They can communicate themselves through blogs, Facebook posts, and books, as well as deliver excellent public speeches, media interviews, and reply to queries. Understanding how to develop and run a website, as well as how to use social media, are both essential skills.

Communication proficiency takes time to develop. Fortunately, we live in an era where there are numerous tools and resources available to assist people in becoming better communicators and developing their own brand. You might also volunteer to assist others in developing their skills. When your church or workplace has a need for social media or wants to express a new idea, it's a fantastic time to practice new abilities.

The goal of becoming a Christian apologist may appear daunting, but it is certainly doable if approached one step at a time. In an increasingly hostile culture, the Christian community needs creative women and men to help defend the faith.

➤ *A Skilled Apologist Must be well-versed in the Scriptures.*

Apologists must be well-versed in the Scriptures and authentic Christian doctrine. The apologist will be able to recognize new erroneous ideas on the horizon by gathering real doctrine. Being armed with scriptures is equivalent to having the whole armour of God. He must not only be familiar with the scriptures, but also be able to interpret them in context. Hermeneutics is essential for a good apologetic. Hermeneutics can assist us in understanding the original intent of the Scripture, providing a good interpretation, allowing us to understand it more completely, and thereby applying it to our daily lives.

Hermeneutics is necessary when reading difficult passages, unfamiliar phrases, or challenging sayings. It can offer a new meaning or reveal something hidden from casual Bible readers, and it can make cryptic words more meaningful. I've written a book about hermeneutics.

CHAPTER THREE

WHY IS APOLOGETICS IMPORTANT?

➤ *It is the Foundation of our Faith.*

Many skeptics question God's existence and/or criticize believing in the God of the Bible. Many detractors question the Bible's inspiration, inerrancy, sufficiency, and final supreme authority. There are many erroneous instructors who spread incorrect teachings and deny essential Christian truths. The aim of Christian apologetics is to counter these movements by promoting the Christian God and Christian truth as revealed in the written Word. Extra-biblical revelations beyond the Canon (66 books in the original King James edition) are rejected. This is why I decided to investigate new cultic movements and bogus prophets presenting erroneous doctrine and expose them.

➤ *We Must do Apologetics because it is a Biblical Command.*

1 Peter 3:15 is a command, not a suggestion, to defend the faith. This caution applies to all Christians, as Peter addressed "all of you" a few paragraphs earlier in 1 Peter 3:8. Jude 3 exhorts us to defend our faith as well. *"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our salvation,"* it adds, *"I found it necessary to write to you appealing to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."* Finally, Paul said, *"destroy arguments and arguments."*

➤ *It Contributes to the Growth of our Faith.*

Apologetics helps us grow in knowledge by teaching us theology and fundamental doctrines, as well as explaining why we believe what we believe. Our optimism is not based on myths, fairy tales, or speculative notions; rather, God has provided us with enough significant evidence to explain and coherently defend our views to skeptics. And having a well-reasoned knowledge of our beliefs strengthens and supports our faith.

The disagreement began: *"After the chief priests met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money and told them, 'You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were sleeping.'" As a result, the soldiers accepted the money and followed orders. This story is still widely circulated among Jews today."* Matt. 28:12–15

This happened while the women who discovered the empty tomb were returning home to tell their families. The disciples required apologetics even before they realized Jesus had been resurrected!

Consider a discourse that does not include Christian apologetics to see its significance. If you're asked why you believe in Jesus and you respond with a blank expression and a shrug, it's hard to be confident. When you react with conviction about how you know the Gospel story is true, people are compelled to reconsider.

This is what Jude meant when he declared in chapter 3 that he *"felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people."* This is the greatest story ever told, and it is our responsibility to either contend with or protect it.

➤ *Apologetics also Improves our Discernment.*

Apologetics also improves our discernment, confidence, and critical thinking, all of which help us grow spiritually.

- *Belief in your beliefs leads to faith in your Christian walk.*
- *Digging further into these concerns should increase your love and gratitude for the Lord. We admire the Creator even more when we learn about the intellectual depths of God's world.*

➤ *It is a Part of Evangelism.*

It is a component of evangelism at its core.

Apologetics, at its core, is about spreading the gospel and winning souls for Christ, not about winning arguments or engaging in philosophical debates. Furthermore, apologetics strengthens evangelism by asking us to explain the gospel to nonbelievers, provide a reason for believing it, and answer their questions. And, while we cannot force someone to believe, we may provide them with enough facts to make their beliefs questionable.

If someone does not believe they need apologetics, check whether they have lately attempted evangelism.

CHAPTER FOUR

A POLOGETICAL HISTORY IN SHORT

➤ *The New Testament Apologetics*

Although no New Testament text should be considered a proper apologetic treatise, apologetic themes do appear in the majority of them. The New Testament writers anticipate and respond to challenges, and they strive to demonstrate the legitimacy of Christ's claims and credentials, emphasizing Jesus' resurrection as the historical foundation upon which Christianity is built. Many New Testament works are polemics against false teachings, with the apologetic objective of defending the gospel against church distortion.

• *Luke-Acts Apologetics*

Luke's two volumes (his Gospel and Acts of the Apostles) are the most overtly apologetic of all New Testament literature. Luke says in his prologue (Luke 1:1-4), that his book is based on thorough historical study and will provide a true account of Christianity's origins. This two-part work's form and content suggest that it was produced in part as a political justification for Paul: Acts concludes with Paul under house arrest but freely preaching in Rome, and both volumes emphasize that Jesus and the apostles (especially Paul) were law-abiding citizens.

The motif of Jesus' resurrection as vindication, his fulfillment of Old Testament messianic prophecies, and the charismatic manifestations on and after Pentecost are employed as cumulative evidences of Jesus' messianic lordship (Acts 2:36) and the apostolic truth claims in Acts. Along the way, Luke uses the apostles' comments to make apologetic arguments to Jewish and Gentile audiences both.

One of these lectures, Paul's address to the Athenians in Acts 17, has had immense influence in Christian apologetics and throughout church history; it is the only notable example in the New Testament of an apology aimed to a non-Jewish audience (though see Acts 14:15-17). As a result, one single speech has historically

According to Luke (Acts 17:18), Paul's message of Jesus and the Resurrection was misconstrued as teaching new deities. This accusation is stated in Luke in terminology that is identical to that used in Plato's apologetic to describe the Athenians' charge against Socrates, showing that Luke considered Paul's speech as a Christian counterpart to the Socratic apologetic. When Stoic and Epicurean philosophers pushed Paul to explain his position, he put it in a rational perspective that his theoretically educated audience could understand. The speech was very different from what Paul had previously given to Jewish audiences, in which he emphasized Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament messianic promises and extensively cited Old Testament proof passages. In truth, Paul spoke in a Greek-recognized manner.

Throughout the speech, Paul preaches biblical truth while using Stoic vocabulary and arguing in a Stoic style, even citing a Stoic poet to back up his thesis (verses 24-29). Essentially, the goal of the first and longest section of the speech is that worship is ridiculous, and the Stoics have admitted as much, albeit they have not completely abandoned it. Paul uses this gap in Stoic philosophy to demonstrate the Athenians' ignorance of God (verse 23). After proving his major thesis, Paul declares that by showing himself, God has put an end to ignorance regarding his nature and will. Paul goes on to say that the Resurrection confirms God's determination to judge the world via Jesus Christ (verses 30-31). This infuriated the Athenians.

As a result of Paul's apologies, some believed, some mocked, and some were intrigued (verses 32-34). These remarks cover the three conceivable reactions to the gospel, and the small number of believers should not be taken as a failure of Paul's presentation. 1 Corinthians 2:2 does not imply that Paul abandoned philosophical reasoning (as his use of Greek logic and eloquence in 1 Corinthians 15 reveals), but rather that he refused to avoid the core issue with the Corinthians, even though it was scandalous to them. As a result, Christian apologists are accurate in considering Paul's speech to the Athenians to be a model of Christian apologetics.

• *Apology in John's Writings*

In his Gospel, the apostle John utilized a strategy comparable to Paul's use of Greek intellectual and theological terms, referring to the preincarnate Christ as the Logos ("Word," John 1:1, 14; compare. 1 John 1:1). References in the Old Testament to a preexistent Word taking part in God's creation of the universe (for example, Genesis 1:3, etc.; Psalm 33:6, 9). Nonetheless, the name Logos would have immediately conjured up Platonic and Stoic notions of the universal Reason, which was considered to dominate the world and was thought to be reflected in every human being's logical intellect (cf. John 1:9). Nonetheless, John's claim that this Logos was personal—that he was the Logos—was significant.

✓ *1 Peter 3:15 Apology Mandate*

Our discussion of New Testament apologetics would be incomplete without mentioning 1 Peter 3:15, which is often regarded as the quintessential scriptural articulation of Christians' obligation to engage in apologetics.¹¹ "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts," Peter advises, "always being ready to make a defense [apologia] to everyone who asks you to give an account [logos] for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." There are three important points to make about this book.

First and foremost, Peter plainly encourages believers to provide a rationale for their beliefs. The concept of logos (the same word used in John 1:1 to speak to the preexistent Christ) is immensely flexible.

- *Reformation of the Protestant Church*

The major preoccupation of the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformers was the doctrine of salvation. According to them, the Aristotelianism of the Scholastics—the medieval theologians on whose ideas the sixteenth-century Roman Catholic Church was founded—had corrupted and confused the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the Renaissance was distinguished by a fascination with pagan antiquity, particularly Platonism and Neoplatonism, which culminated in a further distortion of the Christian message in what became known as humanism. Humanism began as a philosophical approach to literature and education, emphasizing direct study of the classics (and the Bible) rather than through medieval commentary.

Martin Luther's (1483-1546) career was concentrated on the teaching of salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ, the Augustinian monk who sparked the Reformation with his Ninety-five Theses condemning legalistic church procedures. Luther believed that reason, particularly as it was utilized in medieval theology, had obscured the gospel of justification. As a result, he emphasized reason's limitations and rejected the traditional theological task of explaining and defending the Christian faith without resort to scripture.

- *Modern Apologetics' Ascension*

Butler's apologetic efforts in *The Analogy of Religion* were widely regarded as a worthy counter-argument to the natural religion of the deists. With the advent of the Enlightenment, Christian apologetics was forced to reinvent itself. David Hume's (1711-1776) skepticism paved the way for this movement, which rejected all revelation claims and all-natural religion or natural theology, and declared human reason autonomous. Hume persuaded many people that the teleological or design argument, the argument from miracles, and other fundamental Christian apologetic arguments were unsound. Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), a German Enlightenment philosopher who claimed to have been awakened from his "dogmatic slumbers" by Hume's writings, questioned the cosmological and ontological arguments for the existence of God.

Following waves of Christian persecution, orthodox Christians were forced to find apologetic remedies. Theological opinions and philosophical temperament of the apologist, as well as the content of the unbelieving attack, influenced such responses.

CHAPTER FIVE

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD APOLOGETIC MINISTRY

Apologists, according to Harold Powell, go to great lengths to ensure that there is sufficient evidence to sustain their Christian faith beliefs. It is critical to maintain these ministries because they aid in the transmission of knowledge about the reasons why people should follow Christianity. There are several characteristics that must be present in order to run an effective apologetics ministry, and they are as follows:

➤ *The Sanctuary Prioritizes Prayer.*

Prayer is an essential component in the life of a ministry since it allows many things to happen. It should not be a one-time event, but rather a regular ritual. There can be many breakthroughs when apologists commit to praying on a regular basis. When prayer is disciplined, it is easier to achieve the goals.

➤ *Have Dedicated Teams.*

Working in teams is a top secret if at all there is an objective of growth. Every team should have a leader, and it should be aimed at fulfilling the principles that are laid down. When leaders of these teams are trained well and given the right manuals and other resources that are relevant, there can be an assurance of growth. As such, structures must be put in place to ensure that leadership is equipped maximally.

➤ *Theological Accountability.*

A successful Christian group needs to develop a tough stand on the biblical views that go beyond a charismatic leadership. A definite belief must be present and all people are directed towards upholding the beliefs. An effective apologist ensures that those that are trained are equipped with the guide with which they can use as a yardstick. All measures must be put in place to certify that no derailment from the course is witnessed.

➤ *The Ministry Should Be Easily Understood.*

Listeners ought to understand apologetics and everything pertaining it easily without much training. All complex things ought to be broken down into simple terms that are easy to understand. An effective apologist ensures that everything is accessible to boost understanding.

➤ *The Empowerment of Audience Groups Takes Center Stage.*

People must be given the opportunity to become team leaders. Every effort should be made to ensure that those in charge equip the less powerful to become accountable as well. Successful apologetics ministry are ones whose members are completely empowered and whose empowerment is ongoing.

• *It Supplies Necessary Information for Life and Godliness.*

Theology is an important field in the development of Christian faith. It is because it aids in the development of useful knowledge that helps many individuals understand religion based on their faith. Examine the topics discussed above to be certain of the church's growth based on apologetics. To properly comprehend, read them. (2Pe: 1:3-10).

CHAPTER SIX

HOW TO APPLY APOLOGETICS

God encourages us to do things and gives us instructions on how to do them. And here is how we should approach apologetics, guided by 1 Peter 3:15.

➤ *Start with the heart: "But honor Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts..."*

When we engage in apologetics, we must keep in mind that the purpose is not to appear bright and learned, nor is it to win intellectual debates. It is primarily focused with evangelization. Our goal in apologetics should be to honor Christ by sharing His good news with others so that they can come to know Him. 1. Make an argument for Christ.

➤ *Maintain a Professional Demeanor "...while Remaining Gentle and Respectful."*

Defending our opinions should not be used as an excuse to engage in inappropriate or disrespectful behavior toward others. God is concerned about our behavior and desires for us to be Christ-like. Even when debates become heated and the opposite party becomes antagonistic, we must maintain respect and a clear conscience in front of God. The goal of apologetics is to point others to Christ, and our actions and attitudes are part of that defense.

We can't avoid debating; all we can do is do it well.

Apologetics Preparation Techniques

There are two basic approaches to Christian apologetics: classical and presuppositional apologetics.

Classical apologetics is focused with demonstrating the truth of Christianity by solid evidence, whereas presuppositional apologetics is concerned with refuting skeptics' preconceived notions and ideas.

Both ways are correct and do not contradict each other. Here's how to prepare for them:

- *Pray Prayer is an Essential Part of Preparing to Defend one's Religion.*

Only God can illumine the truth and give us the knowledge to articulate it in an appealing and effective way. (John 17:17)

- *Study the Bible*

We must first be anchored in God's word before attempting to defend our faith; a well-grounded Bible student is a well-prepared apologist. Knowing God's word is critical since it is where we start. When Paul participated in apologetics, he argued with them using Scripture (Acts 17:2). Apollos, like Paul, used Scripture to prove that Jesus was the Christ (Acts 18:28). We should take their example.

This includes studying the Bible using biblical hermeneutic methods, acquiring systematic and biblical theology, and grasping essential Christian concepts like substitutionary atonement, justification, sanctification, the Trinity, and so on. Learning them may be aided by the Westminster Confession of Faith, Westminster Shorter Catechism, and Westminster Larger Catechism.

Because not everyone will believe the Bible is true, it is also vital to study the Bible's history as well as its stories.

➤ *Read Appropriate Christian/Apologetic Material.*

Supplement your Bible study with reputable Christian literature that will both broaden your understanding of the Scriptures and provide you with apologetics knowledge.

➤ *Familiarize Yourself with Diverse Religions.*

Knowing what other people think is useful. I do not advocate studying all of the world's religions or becoming an expert in the Qur'an, the Book of Mormon, or other religious texts. I recommend that you just know what the majority of people in your circle of influence believe.

➤ *Practice Humility and Patience.*

Finally, we must learn humility and patience before engaging in apologetics. If you are easily angered or short-tempered, apologetics may not be for you. When we defend the religion, we must act as if we are Christ. As a result, in our daily lives, we must first strive to exhibit patience and the other fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Similarly, we must learn to restrain our conceit (James 4:6). If you like to be the last one to speak and don't know how to admit you don't know or can't quickly apologize. You may be unwilling to engage in apologetics. Nobody knows everything, and it's fine if you can't answer a question. However, lying and unintentionally causing someone to trip is unacceptable. Be modest enough to admit when you don't know something and return to the person when you do.

CHAPTER SEVEN CONCLUSION

A practical approach begins with a review of the orthodox belief system. Using the Banking system of verification of fake shilling notes, the Bank tellers first get abreast with the real features of the genuine notes. Similarly, a good apologetic ministry hinges on first mastering the true historical Christian doctrine in order to weed out any heresy.

A summary of our God centered believe system which is in tandem with the Apostolic Doctrinal creed of the first church of Jerusalem 33-68 AD, must be used to detect any deviation as demonstrated in the Apostles Creed

The above Apostolic doctrine was reiterated during a world council of Bishops in Nicaea, AD 325, confirmed by the first Council of Constantinople which occurred in AD 381 in the city Constantinople, now modern Istanbul, Turkey. It was confirmed again as authentic in the Council of Ephesus, held in AD 431. It was around 19th Century that modern theology repudiated it through WOF postmodern positive thinking. As a result, each church now comes up with different statements of faiths and amorphous policies and goals, contrary to the unity and oneness the Bible emphasizes (John 17:22, Acts 2: 46, Acts 4:32, Romans 12:16, Corinth 1:10, Ephesians 4:3-6.).

At our research Institute, we abhor new theological speculations like Word of Faith. That is why we are unpopular because 98% Pentecostal churches in Uganda, espouse the WOF charismatic theology.

By far one of the most grotesquely and yet brightly blazing deceptions I've ever seen, perverting Christian religion into a crude religiosity set on personal fulfillment, not true trust in God alone but a carnal reliance upon self.

In reality, many Word of Faith (WOF) doctrines resemble the New Age best-seller book "The Secret" more than the Bible. It's hardly a leap to replace WOF's "positive confession" with The Secret's affirmations, or the Word of Faith concept of humans being "little gods" with the New Age concept of humans being divine.

A good apologetic ministry must begin with orthodox Christianity. An orthodox Christian faith is summarized in creeds or confessions. The Apostles creed or the Westminster Confession give a good guide as to orthodoxy.

Any argument or contention for the Christian faith must be in line with the stated articles of confession. But more strictly, it must be in tandem with scriptures as the supreme authority but not from extra-biblical sources.

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