

## Introduction To Apologetics

1. What is apologetics?
  - a. Possible definitions:
    - i. The logical presentation and defense of the Christian faith<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. Apologetics is the field of study concerned with the systematic defense of a position<sup>2</sup>
    - iii. Apologetics is the formal defense of Christian Theology, giving a reason as to why on a logical, philosophical, scientific, or historical level Christianity is a true, accurate and livable worldview.
  - b. Word roots: [Middle English, *formal defense*, from Latin *apologeticus*, from Greek *apologetikos*, *suitable for defense*.<sup>3</sup>
2. What are we defending against?
  - a. The idea that spiritual matters are a personal preference
  - b. The idea that spiritual matters are purely emotional and has emotional value but is not based on truth
  - c. The idea that Man is the ultimate judge of truth and reality and can discover all truth independent of God
  - d. The idea that Truth is not absolute and was not revealed by God
  - e. That the Bible is confusing, contradictory and is not reliable
3. Possible purposes of apologetics
  - a. Apologetics can be used for the purpose of defense when conversing with someone who is a skeptic
  - b. Apologetics can be used to combat heretical teachings found in cults (Polemics)
  - c. Apologetics can be used as a personal faith building tool & Edification of the Saints
  - d. Apologetics can be used for evangelism
4. What apologetics isn't
  - a. Apologetics is not an all-in-one, easy to use kit for personal and world evangelism. That will often require a lifestyle and personal relationship (1 Peter 3:13-17) in tandem with the drawing of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Philosophy – though it does address and contain some philosophy
5. What we're going to cover
  - a. This class will give an overview of the following topics, however, that overview will be 'The tips of the icebergs.' There is a *lot* of material that could be covered and it is highly likely that you will need to dig deeper in various areas upon coming in contact with another person and their specific concerns.
  - b. See accompanying *Preliminary Schedule*.
  - c. How to use apologetics/Role Playing
6. What we're not going to cover
  - a. This will not be an evangelism course
  - b. This will not be a philosophy course
7. Questions?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.apologeticsindex.org/a13.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apologetics>

<sup>3</sup> *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Co*