

Week 1 Definition and History of Apologetics

1. Course Overview

- 1) Understanding the concept and purpose of apologetics
 - 2) Exploring the biblical foundation of Christian defense
 - 3) Tracing historical development from early church to modern era
 - 4) Applying apologetics in today's context
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2. Definition of Apologetics

1) Apologetics

the theological discipline that defends and explains the truth of the Christian faith rationally and logically.

(1) Origin: Greek *apologia*(defense)

(2) Biblical basis:

- ① 1 Peter 3:15
- ② Acts 17 (Paul at the Areopagus)

(3) Core purposes:

- ① Defense of faith
 - ② Explanation of truth
 - ③ Persuasion of the gospel
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3. Biblical Foundations

1) Apostle Paul

Engagement with Greek philosophers (Acts 17)

2) Apostle Peter

Be ready to give an answer (1 Peter 3:15)

4. Historical Development

1) Early Church (2nd-3rd Century)

- (1) Justin Martyr
- (2) Tertullian

Focus:

- (1) Defense under Roman persecution
 - (2) Response to pagan philosophy
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2) Medieval Period

- (1) Augustine of Hippo

(2) Thomas Aquinas

Focus:

(1) Harmony of faith and reason

(2) Natural theology

3) Reformation Era

(1) Martin Luther

(2) John Calvin

Focus:

(1) Scripture-centered defense

(2) Critique of church authority

4) Modern & Contemporary

(1) C. S. Lewis

(2) Cornelius Van Til

Focus:

(1) Addressing atheism and scientism

(2) Development of multiple apologetic methods

5. Types of Apologetics

1) Classical Apologetics

2) Evidential Apologetics

3) Presuppositional Apologetics

4) Experiential / Existential Apologetics

6. Relevance Today

1) Rise of secularism and relativism

2) Conflict between science and faith

3) Response to cults and false teachings

Conclusion:

1) Apologetics is not merely argumentation,

2) but a missional tool to reveal the truth of the Gospel.

7. Discussion Questions

1) Why is apologetics important today?

2) How can Paul's method be applied today?

3) Are faith and reason in conflict or harmony?

8. Assignment

1) Exegesis of 1 Peter 3:15

2) Comparative study of one apologetic method (2 pages)