



Thinking About Christian Apologetics: What It Is and Why We Do It

By James K. Beilby



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Most introductions to apologetics begin with the "how to" of defending the faith, diving right into the major apologetic arguments and the body of evidence. For those who want a more foundational look at this contested theological discipline, this book examines Christian apologetics in its nature, history, approaches, objections and practice. What is apologetics? How has apologetics developed? What are the basic apologetic approaches? Why should we practice apologetics? Countless Christians today are seeking a responsible way to defend and commend their faith. If you are one them, *Thinking About Christian Apologetics* is the place to start.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This book deserves a place amongst the argument-heavy apologetics texts currently in use." (Todd T.W. Daly, Ph.D., *Ethics & Medicine*, Volume 29:2, Summer 2013)

"This excellent book is practical and clear, appropriately biblical and theological, suitably historical and philosophical, and basic without being simplistic. Anyone who aspires to understand the apologetics landscape and to adopt an effective way to communicate with skeptics and critics of Christianity will be helped by this book." (Glenn R. Kreider, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, January-March 2013)

"This is a wonderful book. It provides historical, conceptual and philosophical understandings of apologetics without ignoring the interpersonal aspects of sharing one's faith and the pastoral obligation to equip the church. Although he concerns himself with some sophisticated arguments and issues, Professor Beilby is remarkably clear and readable." (Francis J. Beckwith, professor of philosophy and church-state studies, Baylor University)

"Jim Beilby's volume is distinctive--it's not your normal apologetics textbook. As such, it is an excellent addition to the growing study in this field. It makes numerous seldom-made distinctions, is handy, and contains dozens of gems. From a brief overview of the history of apologetics, to the major varieties and methods, to answering various objections, and even closing with a 'how to' chapter containing a wealth of practical insights, this handbook brings together under one cover a potpourri of items that will not be found in any other text. I recommend it highly." (Gary R. Habermas, Distinguished Research Professor, Liberty University & Theological Seminary)

"This is a terrific little book--and much needed. This isn't a book that *does* apologetics; this is a book *about* apologetics. It answers all the important questions that those who want to defend the faith need addressed. What is apologetics? What is the biblical case? How did the field develop? What are the various methods? And most importantly, how can we effectively use apologetics to bring people to faith and glorify God? Dr. Beilby nails it in this splendid introduction. This is a must-read for anyone entering the study of apologetics." (Craig J. Hazen, Ph.D., director of the MA program in Christian Apologetics, Biola University)

"Finally--a balanced, readable, yet sufficiently nuanced introduction to Christian apologetics! Beilby covers much terrain as he ably summarizes the central themes and assesses the relevant literature. A terrific textbook!" (Paul Copan, professor and Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics, Palm Beach Atlantic University)

About the Author

James K. Beilby (Ph.D., Marquette University) is professor of systematic and philosophical theology at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. His books include *Why Bother With Truth?* (with David Clark), *Divine Foreknowledge: Four Views* and *The Meaning of the Atonement: Four Views* (both with Paul Eddy), *Naturalism Defeated?*, *For Faith and Clarity* and *Epistemology as Theology*. His articles and essays have appeared in such publications as *Faith and Philosophy*, *Philosophia Christi*, *Religious Studies*, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, *Sophia* and *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*.

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