An Apology For Apologetics A Study In The Logic Of Interreligious Dialogue

The context for Christian mission is the world of modern technology and modern thought. Yet how well do we really understand modernity? This book sets out the ideas discussed at a conference of the Lausanne Committee on World Evangelisation, held in Uppsala, Sweden in 1993.

A most accessible but thoroughly practical primer on apologetics. The Christian world view, contends the author, both needs and embodies a thoroughgoing, rational apologetic as a manifestation of its relevance to the contemporary mind. . . . Christian faith should be defended in terms of criteria which center in rational objectivity as the norm of truth and evaluation. The author, who stands in the tradition of Aquinas, Butler, Orr, and Tennant, deals first with the problem of epistemological approach (part 1). Then he tackles the apologetic of natural revelation, first setting forth the inadequacy of every major alternate to rational empiricism (part 2), then demonstrating the existence of the God of theism (part 3). Each chapter is well outlined, and these outlines appear together in an Analytical Table of Contents. This feature, as well as a bibliography and index, makes this a useful textbook for courses in apologetics and philosophy.

Against many expectations, religion has not vanished from Western culture. People are troubled and fascinated in equal measure by this new visibility and are unsure whether it is right to (re)incorporate the vocabulary of faith into our common life. This unprecedented co-
existence of religion and secularism is sometimes termed the “postsecular,” and in this book Elaine Graham considers some of its implications for the public witness of Christianity. She argues that everyone, from church leaders, theologians, local activists, and campaigners, needs to learn again how to “speak Christian” in these contexts. They need to articulate credible theological justifications for their involvement in public life and to justify the very relevance of their faith to a culture that no longer grants automatic privilege or credence. This entails a retrieval of the ancient practice of apologetics, in order to encourage and equip Christians to defend and commend their core principles and convictions in public. This “new apologetics” involves discerning the actions of God in the world, participating in the praxis of God’s mission and bearing witness in word and deed. Rather than being an adversarial or argumentative process, this is an invitation to dialogue and to the rejuvenation of our public life.

Is it still possible, in an age of religious and cultural pluralism, to engage in Christian apologetics? How can one urge one's faith on others when such a gesture is typically regarded with suspicion, if not outright resentment? In Humble Apologetics John G. Stackhouse brings his wide experience as a historian, philosopher, journalist, and theologian to these important questions and offers surprising--and reassuring--answers. Stackhouse begins by acknowledging the real impediments to Christian testimony in North America today and to other faiths in modern societies around the world. He shows how pluralism, postmodernism, skepticism, and a host of other factors create a cultural milieu resistant to the Christian message. And he shows how the arrogance or dogmatism of apologists themselves can alienate rather than attract potential converts. Indeed, Stackhouse argues that the crucial experience of conversion cannot be compelled; all the apologist can do is lead another to the
point where an actual encounter with Jesus can take place. Finally, he shows how displaying an attitude of humility, instead of merely trying to win religious arguments, will help believers offer their neighbors the gift of Christ's love. Drawing on the author's personal experience and written with an engaging directness and an unassuming nature, Humble Apologetics provides sound guidance on how to share Christian faith in a postmodern world.

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"The dialog between the religions and various cultures has shown their common ground and emphasized the differences which characterize the individual religion or cultural identity. This volume shows how the boundaries between the talk of apologetics and philosophical argumentation fade and it combines historical and contemporary case studies from Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Contents include: On the Conditions for Systematic Theology in a Global Public, In the Name of the One and of the Many: Augustine and the Shaping of Christian Identity, An Apology for Mr. Toland in a Letter to Himself, Autobiography as Self Apology. From Deism through Transcendentalism to Atheism: Benjamin Franklin, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Adams, On Theologization of Kabbalah in Modern Scholarship, Leo Strauss' Rediscovery of the Exoteric, A Philosophical Myth in the Service of Christian Apologetics? Manichees and Origenists in the Sixth

Proves the truth of the Faith from a philosophic point of view. Covers proofs for the existence of God; His nature, attributes and action on the world; the nature of religion; the necessity and fact of supernatural revelation; Christ the Redeemer, True God and True Man; His Church--its marks and attributes; the necessity of the Church; plus, the Bible as the true word of God.

Explore Apologetics through the Lives of History’s Great Apologists The History of Apologetics follows the great apologists in the history of the church to understand how they approached the task of apologetics in their own cultural and theological context. Each chapter looks at the life of a well-known apologist from history, unpacks their methodology, and details how they approached the task of defending the faith. By better understanding how apologetics has been done, readers will be better able to grasp the contextualized nature of apologetics and
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This is volume 2 (2012) of Interpreter: A Journal of Mormon Scripture by the Interpreter Foundation. It contains articles on diverse topics such as the role of apologetics in Mormon studies, a book review of "What Latter-day Saints Teach and Practice: Mormonism Explained," evaluating three arguments against Joseph Smith's First Vision, a book review of "Redeemed by Fire: The Rise of Popular Christianity in Modern China," a comparison of the weeping God in Moses 7 with ancient texts, an analysis of the variants in the vision of the Apostle Paul, a book review of "Saint Peter: The Underestimated Apostle," an analysis of why one sixth of the Book of Mormon was set from the original manuscript, a book review
of "Shaken Faith Syndrome: Strengthening One's Testimony in the Face of Criticism and Doubt," the obligation of the Saints to defend the King and his kingdom, and an analysis of the apocryphal acts of Jesus. Most people would agree that compulsive lying is a "sickness." In his provocative Lying, Paul Griffiths suggests that consistent truth telling might evoke a similar response. After all, isn't unremitting honesty often associated with stupidity, insanity, and fanatical sainthood? Drawing from Augustine's writings, and contrasting them with the work of other Christian and non-Christian thinkers, Griffiths deals with the two great questions concerning lying: What is it to lie? When, if ever, should or may a lie be told? Examining Augustine's answers to these questions, Griffiths grapples with the difficulty of those answers while rendering them more accessible. With rhetorical savvy Augustine himself would applaud, Griffiths aims to "seduce" rather than argue his readers into agreement with Augustine. Augustine's historically significant, characteristically Christian, and undeniably radical thoughts on lying ignite Griffiths's searching discussion of this challenging and crucial topic. Marvelously erudite and energetic, Lying will draw Augustine enthusiasts, students of ethics, and anyone who is committed to living a more honest life. This book investigates the doctrine of Christian apologetics. It explains the teaching of a rational Christian apologetic based on theological assumptions derived from Special Revelation. Martin Murphy takes the reader to a new level of understanding the God of
meaning and reality. This is a book that discusses the biblical mandates for how to interact with both ideas and individuals in a confrontational manner while still maintaining a Christian persona. A fresh comprehensive survey of the many methods of Christian apologetics using a unique, whole-person approach. This collection of papers deals with a much-neglected experience of Arabic Christian writings at a time when Muslim and Christian thinkers were engaged in a lively intellectual encounter, which left deep marks on both parties. This volume is a collection of selected readings that are of continuing significance for Christian apologetics. Dr. Bush has written a general introduction to the field of apologetics and an introduction to each apologist cited and the work or works from which selections have been drawn. A brief bibliography is also given for each writer. Christians have always been called on to defend their beliefs—certainly no less today than at any other time in history. In this book the outstanding apologists of previous centuries become models, both in the content of their writing and in their methodology, for Christians today. All those who love the Lord and His church and are concerned that many be made aware of the reasonableness of the Christian faith will find this book enlightening and exciting. An Apology for Apologetics argues that a vigorous apologetics is a vital component of any sound effort at interreligious dialogue. Griffiths shows that a spirited defense of each religious tradition must be made by people who are both committed to their "truth" and open to serious criticisms by members of other faith traditions. He demonstrates why and how such a
recognition of the necessity of interreligious apologetics (the "NOIA principle") runs counter to
the underlying presuppositions of many proponents of interreligious dialogue. Griffiths raises
the specter of an unacceptable price that will be paid if the apologetic enterprise is abandoned.
Religious traditions, he shows convincingly, will face relegation to the realm of purely private
opinion and religious people will be denied the minimum plausibility they need to engage in
public discourse. He argues ultimately that if basic doctrines cannot be defended against alien
claims, religious tradition cannot survive. This book will without a doubt stimulate the debate it
seeks to introduce: it unapologetically issues a challenge to teacup ecumenists and lazy
pluralists. An Apology for Apologetics is for all who are seriously concerned with their own
religious communities. It shows how to think about (and communicate with) those whose
practices and convictions seem to differ significantly from one's own.
Much has been written on apologetics of the Old Testament canon and historicity, investigating
the Old Testament as an object of apologetics. However, this study is the first comprehensive
investigation focusing on apologetics within the Old Testament--i.e., the Old Testament
theological foundations of the discipline of Christian apologetics-- investigating apologetics as
an object of the Old Testament. Taking seriously the biblical texts at its outset, the study
presents a biblically based scheme of five types of apologetic strategy: narrative apologetics,
prophetic apologetics, wisdom apologetics, "citatory" apologetics as antithetic proclamation,
and exemplary apologetics. It focuses on the many explicit confrontations in dialogues,
disputes, quotes, and responses, in both prose and poetical form, which are accompanied by
an indirect dispute, taking substantial space within the historical parts of the Hebrew Bible.
These theological themes are derived from the Old Testament itself, not adapted from the New
Testament.
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Testament. This book serves to fill the gap of a proper biblical-theological foundation of the academic field of apologetics. It is a new challenge for all apologists who wish to take seriously the biblical theological foundation of their discipline. With its sole focus on the Hebrew Bible, this study speaks to Jewish scholars as well. It enriches the current discussion on Jewish apologetics, its beginnings and first developments. The first systematic overview of the field of comparative theology Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology offers a synthesis of and a blueprint for the emerging field of comparative theology. It discusses various approaches to the field, the impact of religious views of other religions on the way in which comparative theology is conducted, and the particularities of comparative theological hermeneutics. It also provides an overview of the types of learning and of the importance of comparative theology for traditional confessional theology. Though drawing mainly from examples of Christian comparative theology, the book presents a methodological framework that may be applied to any religious tradition. Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology begins with an elaboration on the basic distinction between confessional and meta-confessional approaches to comparative theology. The book also identifies and examines six possible types of comparative theological learning and addresses various questions regarding the relationship between comparative and confessional theology. Provides a unique and objective look at the field of comparative theology for scholars of religion and theologians who want to understand or situate their work within the broader field. Contains methodological questions and approaches that apply to comparative theologians from any religious tradition Recognizes and affirms the diversity within the field, while advancing unique perspectives that might be the object of continued discussions among
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theologians Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology offers an important basis for scholars to position their own work within the broader field of comparative theology and is an essential resource for anyone interested in theology conducted in dialogue with other religious traditions. Includes index.

Making the case for the Christian faith—apologetics—has always been part of the Church's mission. Yet Christians sometimes have had different approaches to defending the faith, responding to the needs of their respective times and framing their arguments to address the particular issues of their day. Cardinal Avery Dulles's A History of Apologetics provides a masterful overview of Christian apologetics, from its beginning in the New Testament through the Middle Ages and on to the present resurgence of apologetics among Catholics and Protestants. Dulles shows how Christian apologists have at times both criticized and drawn from their intellectual surroundings to present the reasonableness of Christian belief. Written by one of Catholicism's leading American theologians, A History of Apologetics also examines apologetics in the 20th and early 21st centuries including its decline among Catholics following Vatican II and its recent revival, as well as the contributions of contemporary Evangelical Protestant apologists. Dulles also considers the growing Catholic-Protestant convergence in
apologetics. No student of apologetics and contemporary theology should be without this superb and masterful work.

A fresh exploration of apologetic material that pushes beyond form criticism Andrew Knapp applies modern genre theory to seven ancient Near Eastern royal apologies that served to defend the legitimacy of kings who came to power under irregular circumstances. Knapp examines texts and inscriptions related to Telipinu, Hattusili III, David, Solomon, Hazael, Esarhaddon, and Nabonidus to identify transhistorical common issues that unite each discourse. Features:

- Compares Hittite, Israelite, Aramean, Assyrian, and Babylonian apologies
- Examination of apologetic as a mode instead of a genre
- Charts and illustrations

This comprehensive apologetic case for the Christian faith covers all the major arguments (such as cosmological, design, moral, religious experience arguments) and the reliability of the Old and New Testaments along with the key claims of Jesus, especially regarding the incarnation and resurrection. Current challenges to the Christian faith (such as postmodernism, Islam, the problem of evil and religious pluralism) are also covered. Includes chapters by New and Old Testament scholars Craig Blomberg and Richard Hess on the reliability of the Bible.