

# Cultural Apologetics

An  
Introduction





# Course Highlights

Presentation Title



# Why Apologetics

...but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. -- 1 Peter 3:15 (CSB)



# Apologia - ἄπολογία

Thayer's Lexicon: verbal defense

**HELPS Word-studies: a well-reasoned reply; a thought-out response to adequately address the issue(s) that is raised**

2 If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you, because you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

3 My **defense** to those who examine me is this:  
-- 1 Corinthians 9:2-3 (CSB)

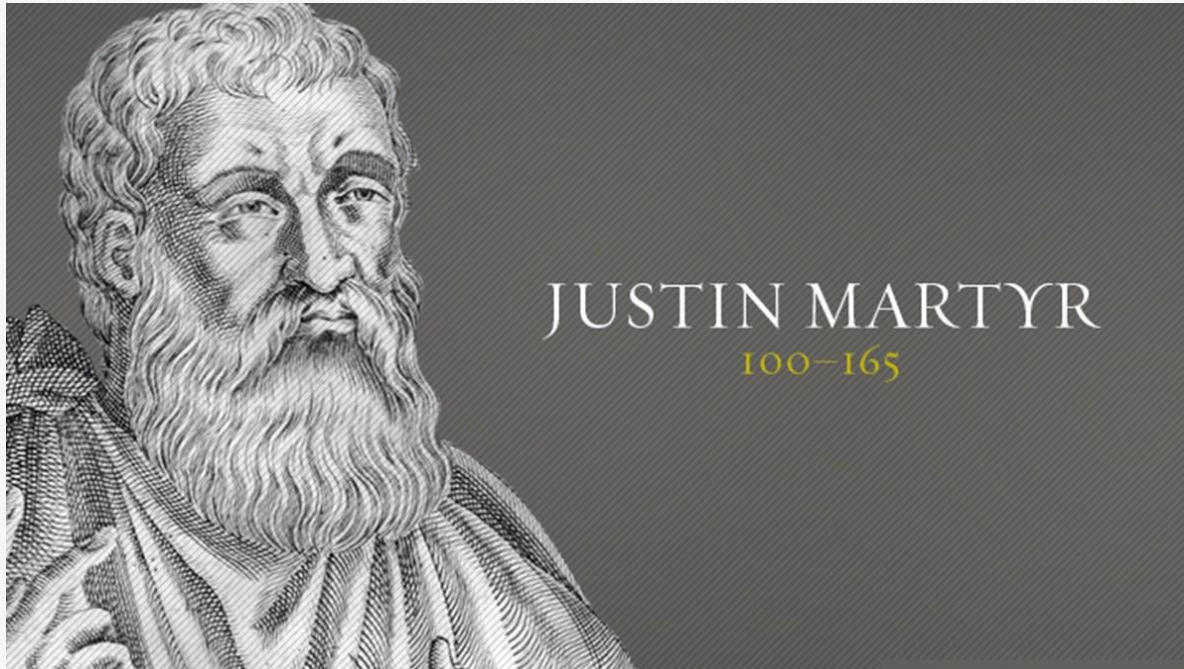
“Brothers and fathers, listen now to my **defense** before you.” -- Acts 22:1 (CSB)

Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the **defense** and confirmation of the gospel. -- Philippians 1:7 (CSB)

“Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write, appealing to you to **contend for the faith** that was delivered to the saints once for all. -- Jude 1:3 (CSB)



# Justin Martyr



"As a pioneering Christian apologist, philosopher, and martyr, St. Justin's unwavering faith has left an incredible mark on the church. It continues to inspire those who seek to deepen their understanding of Christianity."

- Saul Cross, St. Justin Martyr, p. 9.

# Giving up the GIMMICKS: Persuasion in apologetics

## As Seen on TV

All too often "We use a certain technique to create a need and then 'sell' our remedy to the need we have created. In other words, we create the need, then meet the need with our 'product.'" -K. Scott Oliphant

## Box of Tricks

"We are tempted to want a quick and easy fix for any and all objections that might come our way." -K. Scott Oliphant

# What is apologetics?



## Foundation

- At its core it consists of biblical reasons for the hope that we have in Christ Jesus.



## Who is it for?

- Apologetics is meant for ALL the people of God.



## Measuring Success

- You will never present enough facts or argue anyone into the Kingdom of God.
- No one can come to me **unless the Father who sent me draws him,** and I will raise him up on the last day. -- John 6:44 (CSB)



# 3 Aspects of Apologetics



## Apologetics as proof

- Proving Christianity to be true
  - Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves -- John 14:11 (CSB)
  - John 20:24-31 (Thomas doubts are cast aside with proof of Christ's wounds)
  - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Paul describes Jesus appearing to people as proof of resurrection)



## Apologetics as defense

- Answering objections to unbelief (or strengthening beliefs)
  - To be sure, some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. 16 These preach out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; -- Philippians 1:15-16 (CSB)
  - Romans 3 (Paul answers objections to Christianity)



## Apologetics as offense

- Attacking the foolishness of unbelievers
  - The fool says in his heart, "There's no God." They are corrupt; they do vile deeds. There is no one who does good. -- Psalms 14:1 (CSB)
  - 18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent. 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish? 21 For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached. -- 1 Corinthians 1:18-21 (CSB)

- **What is a worldview?**

“A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundations on which we live and more and have our being.” - *The Universe Next Door* by James Sire

