

**Series:** Apology — Giving a Defense for the Faith

**Title:** Part 7 — Cultural Arguments

**Text:** Selected Passages

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While other forms of apologetics are more intellectual in nature, cultural apologetics is more \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.

While other approaches to apologetics appeal to \_\_\_\_\_, philosophy, and history, the cultural approach points to what might be called “cultural artifacts — illustrations from the world of music, art, sports, entertainment, social relations, and politics....” **Paul Gould**

Cultural apologetics = “...the work of establishing the Christian \_\_\_\_\_, conscience, and imagination within a culture so that Christianity is seen as true and satisfying.” **Paul Gould**

*Four important questions in order to become cultural apologists...*

## 1. WHAT IS CULTURE?

“Culture = “...the description of all human endeavors and \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Richard Niebuhr’s five approaches...*

- A. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ culture
- B. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ culture
- C. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ culture
- D. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ culture
- E. Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of culture

One of the best ways for Christians to think of culture is in light of the \_\_\_\_\_.

The Son of God was “culturally embedded,” saying, “...to recognize that Jesus’ divine truth was culturally embedded is to acknowledge that Jesus entered a specific point in history and used and sanctified that culture to communicate the Gospel.” **Megan Joy Rials**

“...persuasion happens not in the abstract but in the particular — a specific person or persons with their own personal time-bound experiences speaking to others, who have their own culturally embodied stories. In this sense all apologetics is cultural apologetics, because persuasion always happens within a particular culture, responds to particular challenges, and addresses particular maladies.” **Joshua Chatraw and Mark D. Allen**

## 2. WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?

“Worldview” = “In its simplest terms, a worldview is a set of beliefs about the most important issues in life. The philosophical systems of great thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle were worldviews. Every mature rational human being...has his or her own worldview just as surely as

Plato did. It seems sometimes that few have any idea what that worldview is or even that they have one.” **Ronald H. Nash**

*Norman Geisler and Frank Turek maintain that there are three major worldviews...*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Pantheism
3. \_\_\_\_\_.

In their book, “How Now Shall We Live?” Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey have proposed that every worldview seeks to answer five common questions — “Where did we come from?” “Who are we?;” “What has gone wrong with the world?;” “What can we do to fix it?;” and “How now shall we live?” Colson and Pearcey’s five questions are of great help for cultural apologetics. The apologist should understand that his or her opponents operate by a presupposed worldview.

### **3. DOES SCRIPTURE SUPPORT THE IDEA OF CULTURAL APOLOGETICS?**

John \_\_\_\_\_

Acts \_\_\_\_\_

### **4. HOW CAN ONE GIVE A CULTURAL APOLOGY?**

#### **A. Look for cultural “\_\_\_\_\_.”**

“...model of using a half-truth embedded in his contemporary culture to share the full truth as embodied in Christ. Similarly, we can and should use the fragments of truth we find in today’s cultural expressions to direct nonbelievers to Jesus.” **Megan Joy Rials**

#### **B. Look for cultural “\_\_\_\_\_.”**

“Meaning Gaps” = a “discrepancy between the means that a skeptic and a believer assign to the same word” or concept. **Holly Ordway,**

#### **C. Make the \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### **D. Make the \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### **E. Share the \_\_\_\_\_.**

“The job of the missionary is to enter sympathetically the worldview/story of the culture yet challenge and re-tell the culture’s story so they see their story will only have a happy ending through Jesus.” **Tim Keller**

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. What do you think of the cultural approach? Should we be cautious with the use of this approach? Why or why not?
2. What do you think about the idea of a “worldview?” What type of worldview do most people operate by nowadays?
3. What are some “cultural goods” or “connections” you see in everyday life?
4. What are some “cultural gaps” or “corrections” you see in everyday life?