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## Book 5

# Biblical Apologetics

## *What is the Best Proof of Christianity?*

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The chapter numbers below are color-coded according to the following categories in order to help you prioritize your reading:

**Best:** The most helpful, interesting and/or important chapters of the book.

**Essential:** Important chapters to understand the topic of the book.

**Specialized:** Chapters for the finer or more complex points of the topic of the book.

### Part I: Biblical Apologetics

#### **5.1: Born Again Living: *The Ultimate Proof of Christianity*** [13 pp.]

##### **A) The Ultimate Apologetic: *Supernatural virtue***

A.1) God's Approach to Apologetics: *Character Miracles*

A.2) A Popular Approach to Apologetics: *Intellectual Arguments*

##### **B) The Meaning of Virtue: *Love & holiness***

B.1) *Agapē* Love

B.2) *Qādash* Holiness

*Extras & Endnotes*

#### **5.2: *Virtue Apologetics in the OT*** [3 pp.]

#### **5.3: *Virtue Apologetics According to Christ: The Moral Superiority of the Spiritually Reborn Over the Fanatically Religious*** [16 pp.]

##### **A) Christ's Example of *Virtue Apologetics***

**B) Christ's Commands for *Virtue Apologetics*:** *Matt 22:37-8; John 13:34-5*

**C) Christ's Prayer for *Virtue Apologetics*:** *John 17:21-23*

**D) Christ's Sermon on *Virtue Apologetics*:** *Matt 5-7*

D.1) Salt & Light of the Earth

D.2) Reborn Superior to Even the Most Religious

D.3) The Uniqueness of Forgiveness

D.4) Distinguishing the Divine from the Demonic

## **5.4: Apologetics According to the Apostles: *Virtue, Not Arguments*** [18 pp.]

### **A) *Virtue Apologetics* According to Paul: “*Weapons of Righteousness*”**

- A.1) *Virtue Apologetics* in the Church
- A.2) The Greatest Miracle is Love: *1 Cor 13:4-8*
- A.3) *Virtue Apologetics* in Paul’s Life

### **B) *Virtue Apologetics* According to Peter: “*Give the Reason for Your Amazing Virtue*”**

- B.1) Live Such Good Lives Among the Pagans: *1 Pet 2:12*
- B.2) Give the Reason for Your Amazing Virtue: *1 Pet 3:15*

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **5.5: *Virtue Apologetics* & the Assurance of Salvation: *Fruits of the Spirit, Not a “Testimony”*** [16 pp.]

### **A) Biblical Support for Assurance through Objective Virtue**

- A.1) The Apostle John’s Support of Objective Assurance
- A.2) Jesus’ Support of Objective Assurance
- A.3) The Apostle Paul’s Support of Objective Assurance

### **B) Historical Support for Assurance through Objective Virtue**

### **C) The Superiority of *Virtue Apologetics* for the Assurance of Our Salvation**

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **5.6: Modern Applications of *Virtue Apologetics*** [8 pp.]

- A) Biblically Evaluating Churches & Pastors**
- B) Biblically Evaluating *Charismaticism* & *Mega Mysticism***
- C) Biblically Evaluating the Emerging Church**
- D) Biblically Evaluating George Barna’s *Revolution***

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **Part II: God’s Power in Apologetics**

## **5.7: God’s Power for *Virtue Apologetics*** [10 pp.]

- A) The Power of Our Relationship with God**
- B) The Power of the *Holy Spirit* in Us**
- C) The Power of Jesus Christ in Us**

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **5.8: God's Plan for *Virtue Apologetics*** [13 pp.]

- A) **God's Sovereignty & Justice**
- B) **God's Work in Us to Conform Us to Christ:** *Phil 1:6*
- C) **God's Work Around Us to Allow Difficulties:** *The seed on rocky soil*
- D) **Our Resistance to the World's Temptations:** *The seed in weedy soil*
- E) **Tag! We're It**

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **5.9: The Church's Historical Testimony to & Demonstration of *Virtue Apologetics*: Christianity Has Done More Good than All Other Religions Combined** [21 pp.]

- A) **The Church's Historical Testimony to *Virtue Apologetics***
  - A.1) Early Church
  - A.2) Middle Ages & Reformation
  - A.3) Eighteenth Century
- B) **The Church's Historical Demonstration of *Virtue Apologetics***
  - B.1) Early Christianity
  - B.2) Christianity & the Nations

*Extras & Endnotes*

### **Part III: *Virtue vs. Intellectual Apologetics***

## **5.10: The Current Status of Apologetics** [28 pp.]

- A) ***Intellectual Apologetics***
  - A.1) Types of *Intellectual Apologetics*: *Classical & Evidential*
  - A.2) The Problems with *Intellectual Apologetics*: Unbiblical & ineffective in evangelism
  - A.3) The Value of *Intellectual Apologetics*: *The building of the believer's faith*
- B) **Other Approaches to Christian Apologetics**
  - B.1) The Growing Popularity of "*Humble*" *Apologetics*
  - B.2) The Non-apologetic of *Presuppositionalism*
  - B.3) The Nonsense of *Reformed Epistemology*
  - B.4) "Power Evangelism" in *Charismaticism*
  - B.5) "Testimony of the Spirit" in Reformed Theology
  - B.6) Experiential Religion in Liberal Theology
- C) **The Woeful Neglect of *Virtue Apologetics***

*Extras & Endnotes*

Table 5.10: *A Comparison of Apologetic Approaches*

**5.11: Paul's Rejection of *Intellectual Apologetics*: "My message was not with wise and persuasive words" [25 pp.]**

**A) Paul's Rejection of *Intellectual Apologetics* for Evangelism:**

A.1) 1 Cor 1:17-2:5: *"My message was not with wise and persuasive words"*

A.2) 2 Cor 4:1-5: *The problem is supernatural, not intellectual*

A.3) Instructions to Timothy & Titus: *Don't argue with obstinate unbelievers*

**B) Historical Support for Paul's Rejection of *Intellectual Apologetics* for Evangelism: Lloyd-Jones: "apologetics has been the curse of evangelical Christianity for the last twenty to thirty years"**

**C) Why *Intellectual Apologetics* is Ineffective**

**D) Why *Virtue Apologetics* but not *Intellectual Apologetics*?**

*Extras & Endnotes*

**5.12: Rescuing Other Scriptures from *Intellectual Apologetics* [14 pp.]**

**A) Demolishing Arguments?: 2 Cor 10:3-5**

**B) Defending the Gospel?: Phil 1:7**

**C) Contending for the Gospel?: Phil 1:27**

**D) Salty conversation?: Col 4:5-6**

**E) Persuading Men?: 2 Cor 5:14**

*Publications & Particulars*

**5.13: Biblical Evangelism vs. *Intellectual Apologetics* [19 pp.]**

**A) Christ's Approach to Evangelism: Repent!**

**B) Paul's Approach to Evangelism**

B.1) First Ministry in Damascus: *Proving that Jesus is the Christ through Scripture*

B.2) First Missionary Journey: *Telling the good news*

B.3) Thessalonica & Berea: *Reasoning from the Scriptures*

B.4) Athens: *Telling Philosophers to Repent*

B.5) Corinth: *My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words*

B.6) Ephesus: *Leaving instead of debating stubborn unbelievers*

B.7) Rome: *Convincing them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and the Prophets*

*Extras & Endnotes*

**5.14: The Superiority of *Virtue Apologetics*: And the Inferiority of Intellectual Apologetics** [11 pp.]

- A) *Virtue Apologetics* Focuses on the Gospel
- B) *Virtue Apologetics* More Effectively Distinguishes Religions
- C) *Virtue Apologetics* Provides Personal Evidence
- D) *Virtue Apologetics* has Universal Appeal
- E) *Virtue Apologetics* is the Most Difficult to Argue Against
- F) *Intellectual Apologetics* is Usually Too Complex
- G) *Intellectual Apologetics* Hinders Evangelism
- H) *Virtue Apologetics* is Confirmed by Our Experience
- I) *Virtue Apologetics* is Most Effective in a Postmodern Culture
- J) *Virtue Apologetics* is the Most Helpful for Discipleship

*Publications & Particulars*

**Part IV: Challenges to *Virtue Apologetics***

**5.15: Moral Relativism & Insanity** [14 pp.]

- A) Moral Relativism Among Cultures
- B) Moral Insanity Among Non-Christians
  - B.1) Moral Depravity Perverts Moral Reasoning
  - B.2) The Vice of "Toleration" Distorts the Virtue of Moral Standards

*Extras & Endnotes*

**5.16: Immorality in *Christendom* & Morality Among Non-Christians** [19 pp.]

- A) Immorality in Modern *Christendom*
  - A.1) The Exaggeration of Christian Immorality
  - A.2) The Problem With "Christian" Pollsters
  - A.3) The Church's Hindrance of *Virtue Apologetics*
  - A.4) Personal Relationships are the Key
  - A.5) A Noticeable Difference, Not Perfection, is Needed
- B) Morality Among Non-Christians
  - B.1) Can Unregenerate People be Virtuous?
  - B.2) Let's Not Forget the Appalling Immorality of the Unregenerate

*Extras & Endnotes*

**5.17: Historical Challenges to *Virtue Apologetics*** [22 pp.]

- A) Distinguishing *Christendom* from Christianity
- B) The Inquisition
- C) The Crusades
- D) Salem Witch Trials
- E) Slavery
- F) Denominational Divisions

*Extras & Endnotes*

**Part V: Appendix**

**5.18: Ancient & Modern Testimonies of *Virtue Apologetics***