



## Considering the challenges of Apologetics

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### Section I

#### 1. THE NEED FOR APOLOGETICS

#### 2. MODEL- PAUL-ACTS 17, COLOSSIANS, GALATIANS

#### 3. CHALLENGES - dynamic, fluid, require critical analysis

#### 4. TRUTH TESTING

- <ol type="a"> § coherence
- § correspondence with reality
- § pragmatic

#### 5. CHALLENGES TO 19C/20C CHRISTIANITY

- <ol type="a"> § Humanism- man is the measure of all things
- § Existentialism- being and will
- § Marxism- economic explanation
- § Secularism- nothing beyond here and now

#### 6. RESPONSES TO CHALLENGES

- <ol type="a"> § Falleness of humanity
- § Holism of reason, experience and will
- § Reductionism to nothing buttery
- § Beyond the here and now

#### QUESTIONS <ol type="a"> § Why so little interest in apologetics?

- § How did the Church fail to meet the challenges?
- § What can we learn from the failure?
- § How can we motivate and enable apologists?

### Section II

#### 20c/21c CHALLENGES

#### 1. RELATIVISM

- <ol type="a"> § what there is- ontology
- § how we know- epistemology
- § moral relativism- situational
- § relativity of truth- subjectivism

#### 2. RESPONSES

- <ol type="a"> § status of the view - contradiction
- § counter evidence
- § practical responses

#### 3. POST- MODERNITY

- <ol type="a"> § no big picture
- § subjectivity
- § tolerance

#### 4. RESPONSES

- <ol type="a"> § is there really post-modernism?
- § stories and history
- § objectivity
- § limits of tolerance

#### 5. LIBERALISM

- <ol type="a"> § collapse of Marxism
- § freedom from/to and limits
- § rights- cf freedoms and responsibilities
- § subjective/relative

#### 6. RESPONSES

- <ol type="a"> § metamorphoses of Marxism
- § successes and limits of Capitalism
- § limits of freedom and autonomy
- § basis of rights
- § responsibilities and duties
- § objectivity and universality

#### 7. MYSTICISM

- <ol type="a"> § Eastern Religions
- § Spiritualities
- § Otherness
- § Limits of speech and knowledge

#### 8. RESPONSES

- <ol type="a"> § truth testing
- § true and false spiritualities
- § speaking of what we don't know and understand
- § apprehension not comprehension

#### QUESTIONS <ol type="a"> § WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES TO CHRISTIANITY TODAY?

- § HOW DO WE TO RESPOND TO THEM?

§ HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

### **Section III IMPACT OF THE CHALLENGES**

#### **1. ON THE CHURCH**

<ol type="a"> § loss of confidence

§ anti intellectualism

§ emotion

§ inclusivism

§ retreat from preaching and apologetics

§ search for new and old spiritualities

§ confusion in social involvement

§ political confusion

§ social withdrawal

§ conformed to the world

#### **2. RESPONSES - NEED FOR CONFIDENCE**

§ AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

§ BALANCED DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY-  
DUST AND GLORY

§ FULL GOSPEL OF CHRIST

§ SPIRIT IN PERSPECTIVE

§ DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

§ SALT AND LIGHT