

DAILY ORAL THEOLOGY

Apologetics

Apologetics n.

1. Apologetics (definition): originates from apologia, a Greek word, found in 1 Peter 3:15 (“...always be ready to give a defense [apologia] to everyone who asks you...”). Apologia has a legalistic dimension that lends toward vindication. So, apologetics is the discipline of Christian study that is concerned with making a defense or giving reason for the truth claims of the Christian faith.
2. The presuppositional apologist Cornelius Van Til defined apologetics as the vindication of the Christian philosophy against the various forms of the non-Christian philosophy of life.
3. Others put it this way: apologetics is giving a reason for why you believe what you believe, and it is a form of pre-evangelism. However, that is a bit imprecise because evangelism is more properly the fuel that drives apologetics. While not all evangelism is apologetical, the practice of apologetics void of the desire to win one over for Christ is an empty exercise.