

APOLOGETICS – Readings and Resources

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(Note: As in any study, you need to compare men’s thoughts with the Word of God in Scripture. The items below must be read with discernment. Inclusion in this list does *not* imply complete endorsement or agreement - but usefulness for sharpening one’s thoughts and skills in apologetics.)

John M. Frame, *Apologetics to the Glory of God*, Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 1994, revised and expanded as “*Apologetics: A Justification of the Christian Belief*” P & R 2015.

Many of the writings and books of two of my favorite professors, John Frame and Vern Poythress, can be found free of charge at: <http://frame-poythress.org>

William Edgar and K. Scott Oliphint, eds., *Christian Apologetics Past and Present: A Primary Source Reader*, 2 vols. (Crossway, 2009–2011).

1. DEFENDING AND DECLARING THE BIBLE

Alvin Plantinga, “When Faith and Reason Clash: Evolution and the Bible,” *Christian Scholar Review* 21/1 (Sept. 1991), 8-33.

Alvin Plantinga, *Warrant: The Current Debate* (Oxford University Press, 1993).

Anthony C. Thiselton, *Interpreting God and the Postmodern Self: On Meaning, Manipulation and Promise* (Eerdmans, 1995).

Cornelis Haak, “The Missional Approach: Reconsidering Elenctics,” *Calvin Theological Journal* 44 (2009), 37–48; 288–305.

D. A. Carson, *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism* (Zondervan, 1996).

D. A. Carson, *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church: Understanding a Movement and Its Implications* (Zondervan, 2005).

D. A. Carson, *Christ and Culture Revisited* (Eerdmans, 2008).

D. A. Carson, *Jesus the Son of God* (IVP, 2012).

David W. Baker, ed., *Biblical Faith and Other Religions: An Evangelical Assessment* (Kregel, 2004).

Dick Keyes, *Chameleon Christianity*, Grand Rapids: Baker/Hourglass, 1994

Edmund P. Clowney, “Preaching the Word of the Lord: Cornelius Van Til, V.D.M.” *Westminster Theological Journal* 46, no. 2 (1984): 233-53.

Harvie Conn, *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology, Anthropology, and Mission in Dialogue* (P&R, 1984).

Ida Glaser, *The Bible and Other Faiths: Christian Responsibility in a World of Religions* (IVP Academic, 2005).

John Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (Eerdmans, 2009).

John Piper, *A Peculiar Glory: How the Christian Scriptures Reveal Their Complete Truthfulness* (Crossway, 2016).

K. Scott Oliphint, *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*, Phillipsburg: P & R, 2003

K. Scott Oliphint and Lane G. Tipton, eds, *Revelation and Reason: New Essays in Reformed Apologetics* (P&R, 2007).

Richard Bauckham, *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World* (Baker, 2003).

Richard Bauckham, *Living with Other Creatures: Green Exegesis and Theology* (Baylor University Press, 2011).

Ted Turnau, *Popologetics: Popular Culture in Christian Perspective* (P&R, 2012).

Vern S. Poythress, *Inerrancy and Worldview: Answering Modern Challenges to the Bible* (Crossway, 2012).

Pdf available from:

<http://frame-poythress.org/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/PoythressVernInerrancyAndWorldview.pdf>

Vern S. Poythress, *In the Beginning Was the Word: Language: A God-centered Approach* (Crossway, 2009).

2. DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

Al Wolters, *Creation Regained*, Eerdmans, 2005

Brian J. Walsh & Richard Middleton, *The Transforming Vision*, Inter-Varsity Press, 1984

Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., *Engaging God's World*, Eerdmans, 2002

David K. Naugle, *Worldview: The History of a Concept*, Eerdmans, 2002

David B. Hegeman, *Plowing in Hope: Toward a Biblical Theology of Culture*, Canon Press, 1999

J. H. Bavinck, *An Introduction to the Science of Missions* (P&R, 1960).

J. H. Bavinck, *The Church between Temple and Mosque: A Study of the Relationship between the Christian Faith and Other Religions* (Eerdmans, 1981).

Peter L. Berger, *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion* (Anchor, 1990).

Steve Turner, *Imagine: A Vision for Christians in the Arts*, Inter-Varsity Press, 2001

William Edgar, "Created and Creating: A Biblical Theology of Culture" IVP Academic, 2017.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

David J. Bosch, *Believing in the Future: Toward a Missiology of Western Culture*, Trinity Press, 1995

J. Richard Middleton & Brian J. Walsh, *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used to Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*, Inter-Varsity Press, 1995

Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989

Michael Goheen & Craig Bartholomew, *Living at the Crossroads*, Baker, 2008

Peter L. Berger, *The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics*, Eerdmans, 1999

Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom*, New York: Oxford, 2002

Richard Keyes, *Seeing Through Cynicism*, Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 2006

Ross Douthat, *Bad Religion*, New York: Free Press, 2012

4. PRESUPPOSITIONAL APOLOGETICS

Greg L. Bahnsen, *Always Ready: Directions for Defending the Faith*, edited by Robert R. Booth (Covenant Media Foundation, 1996).

Cornelius Van Til, *Christian Apologetics*, P & R, 2003

Cornelius Van Til, *The Defense of the Faith*, 3rd ed., rev., Presbyterian & Reformed, 1976

Cornelius Van Til, *Psychology of Religion* (P&R, 1971).

Cornelius Van Til, *Common Grace and the Gospel* (P&R, 1972).

Cornelius Van Til, "Scripture and Reformed Apologetics," *The New Testament Student and Theology*, The New Testament Student Vol. 3, John H. Skilton ed. (P&R, 1976) 150–59.

Cornelius Van Til, *Christian Theistic Evidences* (P&R, 1978).

Cornelius Van Til, *Introduction to Systematic Theology*, 2nd ed. (P&R, 2007).

Cornelius Van Til, *Christianity in Conflict*, Steve Vanderhill ed., syllabus (WTS, n.d.).

Cornelius Van Til, *The Defense of the Faith*, 4th ed. (P&R, 2008).

Cornelius Van Til, "Nature and Scripture" in *The Infallible Word: A Symposium by Members of the Faculty of Westminster Theological Seminary* (P&R, 2003; orig.1946), 263–301. Pdf available from: www.wtsbooks.com/common/pdf_links/9780875525433.pdf

E. R. Geehan, *Jerusalem and Athens: Critical Discussions on the Philosophy and Apologetics of Cornelius Van Til* (P&R, 1971).

G. K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*, Ignatius Press, 1999

Francis A. Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*, Inter-Varsity Press, 1968

John M. Frame, *Cornelius Van Til: An Analysis of His Thought*, P & R Publishing, 1995

John M. Frame, *No Other God: A Response to Open Theism* (P&R, 2001).

John M. Frame, "A Van Til Glossary"

http://www.thirdmill.org/files/english/practical_theology/33822~8_30_00_6-57-45_PM~PT.Frame.VanTil.Glossary.pdf

Steven B. Cowan, ed., *Five Views on Apologetics*, Zondervan, 2000, 207-264

William Edgar, *Reasons of the Heart*, Phillipsburg: P & R, 2003

5. APOLOGETIC CONVERSATIONS

Alvin Plantinga, *Warranted Christian Belief* (Oxford University Press, 2000)

ISBN 978-0195131932 (paperback).

Brian Morley, *Mapping Apologetics: Comparing Contemporary Approaches* (IVP, 2015)

ISBN: 9780830840670

C. Stephen Evans, *Pocket Dictionary of Apologetics & Philosophy of Religion* (IVP, 2002) ISBN:

9780830814657

Craig S. Keener & Glenn Usry, *Defending Black Faith*, Inter-Varsity, 1997

D. A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord: Reflections on Suffering and Evil*, Baker Academic, 2006

Flavien Pardigon, "Theology of Religions" and "Areopagus Speech"

<https://independent.academia.edu/FlavienPardigon>

Jean Bethke Elshtain, *Who Are We?* Eerdmans, 2000

John Coleman, "How to Argue Like Jesus: Learning Persuasion from History's Greatest Communicator," Crossway, 2009.

John D. Currid. *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament* (Crossway, 2013).

John Stackhouse, *Humble Apologetics: Defending the Faith Today* (Oxford University Press, 2006), ISBN 978-0195307177

K. Scott Oliphint, *Covenantal Apologetics: Principles and Practice in Defense of Our Faith* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2013).

Michael Murray, (ed.), *Reason for the Hope Within* (Eerdmans, 1999) ISBN 978-0802844378 (paperback).

Os Guinness, *Long Journey Home*, Doubleday, 2001

Os Guinness, *Unspeakable: Facing up to Evil in an Age of Genocide and Terror*, Harper-San- Francisco, 2005

Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2002).

Ruth A. Tucker, *Walking Away from Faith: Unraveling the Mystery of Belief and Unbelief*, Inter-Varsity Press, 2002

Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* (Riverhead Trade, 2009) ISBN: 9781594483493

Timothy Keller, *Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical*, Viking, 2016.

Voddie Baucham Jr. "Expository Apologetics: Answering Objections with the Power of the Word," Crossway, 2015.

William Edgar: *The Face of Truth: Lifting the Veil*, P & R, 2000

William Edgar, *Truth in All Its Glory: Commending the Reformed Faith* (P&R, 2004).

William Edgar, *Reasons of the Heart: Recovering Christian Persuasion* (P&R Publishing, 2003) ISBN: 9780875525952

6. ISLAM

A Common Word, <http://www.acommonword.com/the-acw-document>

Allamah Tabatabaei, *Shi'ite Islam* (State University of New York Press, 1971).

Anees Zaka and Alfred Siha, *It Is Written! The Use of Cornelius Van Til's Biblical Apologetics for Doing Missions Among Muslims* (Church Without Walls, 2005).
www.unashamedofthegospel.org; www.answering-islam.org

Bassam Madany, *The Bible and Islam: A Basic Guide to Sharing God's Word with a Muslim*, 5th ed. (Middle East Resources, 2015).

Colin Chapman, *Cross and Crescent: Responding to the Challenge of Islam* (IVP, 2008) ISBN: 9780830834853

Daniel W. Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam*, 2nd ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).

Daniel Strange, *"For Their Rock is not as Our Rock": An Evangelical Theology of Religions* (Apollos, 2014).

Gerald McDermott, *Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions? Jesus, Revelation and Religious Traditions* (IVP, 2000).

Hendrik Kraemer, *World Cultures and World Religions: The Coming Dialogue* (Westminster Press, 1960).

Joshua Lingel, Jeff Morton, Bill Nikides, *Chrislam: How Missionaries are Promoting an Islamized Gospel* (i2, 2011?). Available in kindle format on Amazon.

Kenneth Cragg, *The Call of the Minaret*, 2nd ed. (Orbis, 1985).

Miroslav Volf, *Allah: A Christian Response* (HarperOne, 2012).

Nabeel Qureshi, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity* (Zondervan, 2014).

Samuel Schlorff, *Missiological Models in Ministry to Muslims* (Middle East Resources, 2006).

Sam Solomon, *Not the Same God: Is the Qur'anic Allah the LORD God of the Bible?* (ANM, 2015).

Samuel Zwemer, *The Moslem Doctrine of God, The Moslem Doctrine of Christ*, combined edition of two studies originally published separately (Advancing Native Missions, 2010).

7. PHILOSOPHY

Alvin Plantinga, "The Dawkins Confusion," *Books and Culture*, February 2007, <http://www.booksandculture.com/articles/2007/marapr/1.21.html>

John M. Frame, *A History of Western Philosophy and Theology* (P&R, 2015).

K. Scott Oliphint, *Reasons for Faith: Philosophy in the Service of Theology* (P&R, 2006).

Vern S. Poythress, *Logic: A God-centered Approach to the Foundation of Western Thought* (Crossway, 2013).

Vern S. Poythress, *Redeeming Philosophy: A God-centered Approach to the Big Questions* (Crossway, 2014).

8. SCIENCE

Alvin Plantinga, *Where the Conflict Really lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism* (OUP, 2011)
ISBN: 9780199812097

Del Ratzsch, *Science & Its Limits: The Natural Sciences in Christian Perspective* (IVP, 2000) ISBN: 9780830815807

Phillip E. Johnson, *Darwin on Trial*, 2nd ed (IVP, 1993).

Vern S. Poythress, *Redeeming Science: A God-centered Approach* (Crossway, 2006).

Vern S. Poythress, *Redeeming Sociology: A God-centered Approach* (Crossway, 2011).

Vern S. Poythress, "Why Scientists Must Believe in God: Divine Attributes of Scientific Law" *JETS* 46.1 (March 2003), 111–124. Pdf available from: http://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/46/46-1/46-1-pp111-123_JETS.pdf

RESOURCES

Today, resources books and others, are proliferating. It is important to be aware of these, because the quality is improving all the time. Furthermore, much apologetics is being done in formats related to the information explosion. The following items are suggestive, but hardly exhaustive.

Mars Hill Audio: Tape series, NPR format, hosted by Ken Myers. Very insightful interviews on every aspect of contemporary culture. Special emphasis on the arts. Current address: P.O. Box 1527, Charlottesville, VA 22902-1527

The Trinity Forum: Several curricula whose stated purpose is, "Strengthening Spiritual Balance in Secular Leadership." They issue from the work of Os Guinness, and consist of Aspen-type seminars. Billed as "an academy without walls," they use texts from the classics, to theology, to skeptical moderns, to Scripture, challenging the student to think through first-order questions. Current web-address: www.ttf.org.

Several periodicals are recommended in order to keep abreast of cultural trends. Among the most important are *New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics* (IVP), *Chronicles*, *Soundings*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Capital Commentary*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Icon*, *The New Republic*, *The Utne Reader*, *Books and Culture*, *Select Items*, *Hedgehog Review*, *First Things*, *The Reformed Apologist*, *Modern Reformation*, *Christianity Today*, *Prism*, *The Reconciler*, *Gadfly*, *Forbes Media Critic*, *The Wilson Quarterly*, *The Economist*, *The Brandywine Review of Faith & International Affairs*.

A large number of *websites* related to apologetics exist. Some are profitable, many are exercises in "vain repetition." Browsing through various drives gives an open window onto American Christianity – for better or worse! One sees a good number of evidentialist sites, with questions focusing on evolution, the Bible's reliability, the cults, etc. There are also a fair number of Roman Catholic sites, embracing a great variety of issues and approaches. Despite the smaller population, Reformed circles display a significant number of sites as well.

For some of the most interesting links:

<http://maxpages.com/thirdmill> Richard Pratt, *Third Millennium Ministries*

<http://www.liberty.edu/resources/library/christn/apol/apol.htm> Liberty University

<https://truthxchange.com/> Excellent resources from Dr. Peter Jones

<http://str.org/> Stand To Reason; lots of helpful, excellent resources

From a specifically Reformed point of view:

<http://www.reformed.org/apologetics/apologetics.html> Jonathan Barlow and Ed Welsh's site

<http://www.scccs.org> Greg Bahnsen's Institute

Most useful all around:

<http://www.ttf.org/> The Trinity Forum: "engaging leaders... for personal and societal renewal"

<http://www.veritas.org/index.html> The Veritas Forum; outstanding creative apologetics in universities

<http://huizen.dds.nl/~chr/links/apolog.htm> Christian Europe Online; very useful resources

<http://www.colsoncenter.org/> <http://colsonfellows.org/> Colson Center for Christian Worldview

<http://thegospelcoalition.org> The Gospel Coalition