

polemics *n* - the art or practice of _____ or controversy;
the branch of theology dealing with the _____ or
_____ of ecclesiastical disputation and controversy

disputation *n* - _____ or _____ ; formal _____ debate

✠ ACTS 17:1-4 (ESV) ✠

THEY CAME TO THESSALONICA, WHERE THERE WAS A SYNAGOGUE OF THE JEWS. AND PAUL WENT IN, AS WAS HIS CUSTOM, AND ON THREE SABBATH DAYS HE REASONED WITH THEM FROM THE SCRIPTURES, EXPLAINING AND PROVING THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE CHRIST TO SUFFER AND TO RISE FROM THE DEAD, AND SAYING, "THIS JESUS, WHOM I PROCLAIM TO YOU, IS THE CHRIST." AND SOME OF THEM WERE PERSUADED AND JOINED PAUL AND SILAS, AS DID A GREAT MANY OF THE DEVOUT GREEKS.

Paul used reasoned arguments in his proclaiming of the Gospel ...

- Acts 18:4, and 19:8
- Acts 24:25
- and for the purpose of Acts 26:24-28!

It was Paul's custom to reason with the Jews in the synagogues, and even marketplaces, in order to _____ them in the _____ of the Christian faith, especially that Jesus Christ rose again from the dead as an _____ fact.

Objections by some Christians of the study and use of apologetics.

Apologetics cannot change the human heart or produce an inner acceptance of the Gospel

No need for "reasons" to believe. Just preach the word since it will not return void.

The Bible says, "Without faith, it is impossible to please Him [God]."

Scripture is true because it says it is true, otherwise you are testing its authority and veracity by another [human] standard.

APOLOGETICS student

Defending a Defense JDG 9/26/21

LUTHER once wrote as a marginal reference that "Arguments based on reason determine nothing, but because Holy Scripture says that it is true, it is true." [Becker, *The Foolishness of God: The Place of reason in the Theology of Martin Luther*, 1982, 191] How do we reconcile this with his own use of reasoned argumentation against his theological opponents?

ANSWER ... The truth of Holy Scripture isn't true by virtue of reasoned argumentation. It is true because of its own origin, authority, and testimony as God's inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word, for "it is impossible for God to lie" (Hb 6:18) ... **and that is a matter and article of faith!** Reasoned argumentation only supports what is already true, but does not make it so. "Reason" must always remain within its proper limits as a servant of the text and hand-maiden to FAITH which believes this Word of God.

A helpful distinction between **apologetics** and **polemics** is provided by one Leander Keyser, a theologian and professor of systematic theology in the early 20th century. Essentially ...

apologetics contends with " _____ of the Christian Church," and ...

polemics contends with " _____ the Christian Church"

Sainted Kurt Marquart described apologetics as a kind of "prolegomena" to theology, but not of theology proper. Yet, as such, even valid and necessary. [Marquart, *Anatomy of an Explosion* (1977) 128]

prolegomenon *n* - a critical or discursive _____ to a book

discursive *adj* - relating to _____ or models of _____

discourse *adj* - written or spoken _____ or _____

In this view, apologetics can serve as an _____ to theology, if even to help remove known _____ or _____ so as to get to the more important task of speaking the _____ .

- Romans 16:17
- 2 Corinthians 6:3
