

# The Apologetic Inherent in the Gospel Message

Apologetics comes from a Greek word that simply means “defense”. We see it used in classical literature in Plato’s Apology/Defense in Athens. We see it used in the early Church by Justin Martyr in his Apology I and II as he makes a defense for Christianity before the emperor of Rome. Though it is good to be familiar with the basic types of apologetic appeals it is best of all not to neglect the most profound apologetic inherent in the Gospel itself.

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## I. Apologetics Defined

1. Defense
  
2. Classical Examples:
  - a. Plato’s Apology
  
  - b. The Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15)
  
  - c. Paul’s Apology at Mar’s Hill in Athens (Acts 17)
  
3. What can be learned through the epistemology inherent in each of these example?
  - a. Authority
  
  - b. Reason

c. Experience

4. Note the Personal (not merely Propositional) Nature of the Defense

## **II. Types of Classical Apologetics**

1. Presupposition Apologetics

2. Evidential Apologetics

3. The Hybrid (also Personal)

## **III. The Goal of the Apologist: Defense of the Faith**

## **IV. The Apologetic Inherent in the Gospel Itself**

1. The Love of God

2. The Forgiveness of sins

## **V. Communicating this Apologetic to Others**

## **VI. Conclusion**