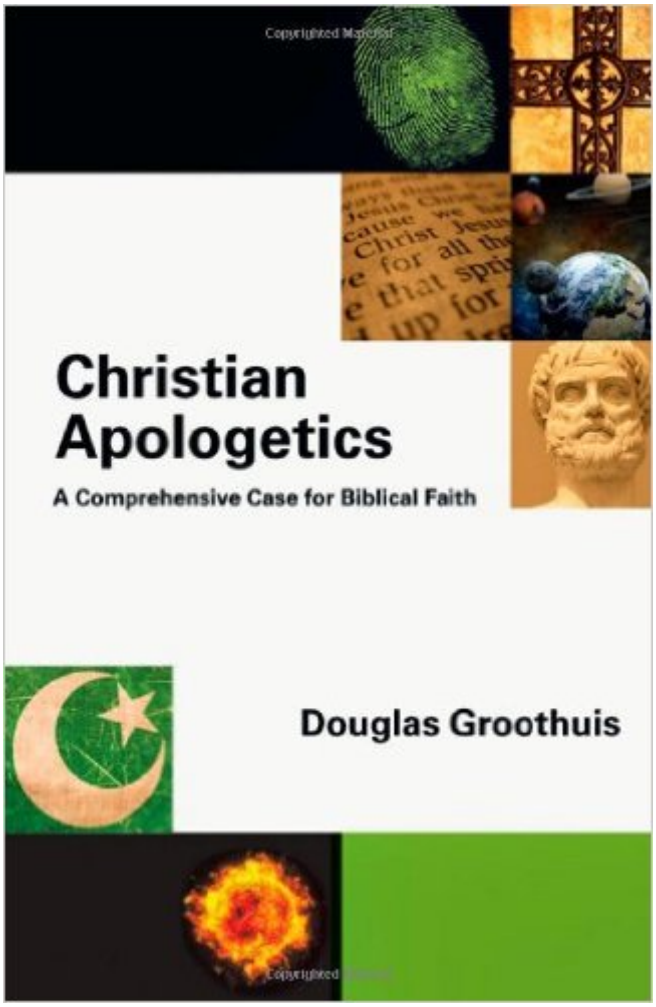
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Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case For Biblical Faith



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Synopsis

2012 Christianity Today Book Award of Merit winner! The Christian worldview proposes answers to the most enduring human questions. But are those answers reliable? In this systematic text, Douglas Groothuis makes a comprehensive apologetic case for Christian theism--proceeding from a defense of objective truth to a presentation of the key arguments for God from natural theology to a case for the credibility of Jesus, the incarnation and the resurrection. Throughout, Groothuis considers alternative views and how they fare intellectually.

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Customer Reviews

"I found this to be an excellent resource and a must-have for the library of anyone with any interest in defending the faith--from beginner level to advanced. . . . I commend Groothius for providing such a useful resource that many will benefit from for years to come." (Devin Pellew, Christian Apologetics Journal, Spring 2013)"Groothuis offers as clear and as convincing a short exposition of the ontological argument as I have read. . . . As well as Christian apologists, students of the philosophy of religion should find this a useful book." (Paul Richardson, England On Sunday, January 22, 2012)"Christian Apologetics is undergirded throughout with solid scholarship, razor-sharp reasoning, and copious footnotes. . . . The thoughtful layperson will be guided along the author’s line of reasoning in logical progression. . . . By applying cogent insights in the book, the church can truly turn the world upside down for the glory of God." (Robert Velarde, Christian Research Journal, Vol. 34, No. 06)"Douglas Groothuis does Christian apologetics the way it needs to be done, situating apologetics within a Christian worldview and answering the troubling questions

that people are actually asking--questions to which they need answers if faith is going to be a live option. His book draws on many years of teaching and writing about apologetics, distilling the most effective arguments in defense of the Christian faith." (William A. Dembski, author of The End of Christianity)"Christian Apologetics is an outstanding book that I wholeheartedly endorse. It is one of the most thorough, insightful and well-written apologetics books I have read in a long time. Groothuis has the rare ability to write in a way that is understandable to the nonspecialist and yet rigorous enough to challenge the apologetic connoisseur. I wish every Christian would read this book carefully and then pass it on to a skeptic for discussion, interaction and dialogue." (Sean McDowell, author of Apologetics for a New Generation)"Groothuis is a leading evangelical thinker and Christian Apologetics is a monumental result of decades of study and reflection. Breathtaking in scope, clear in style, this book is now the go-to text in the field. I know of nothing like it, and I enthusiastically recommend it to all who want to learn to give an answer for the hope that is within them." (J. P. Moreland, author of The God Question)"Christian Apologetics is a full-scale defense of the Christian faith that is accessible, relevant and wise. This book not only reflects the work of a seasoned apologist; it is written with passion and conviction. I heartily recommend it!" (Paul Copan, Palm Beach Atlantic University)

Douglas R. Groothuis (PhD, Philosophy, University of Oregon) is professor of philosophy at Denver Seminary in Denver, Colorado. He has also been a visiting professor or adjunct faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary (Colorado Springs extension), Metropolitan State College of Denver, Westminster Theological Seminary (California campus), University of Oregon, New College Berkeley and Seattle Pacific University. His articles have been published in professional journals such as Religious Studies, Sophia, Theory and Research in Education, Philosophia Christi, Themelios, Think: A Journal of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, Christian Scholar’s Review, Inquiry and Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society. He has written several books, including Truth Decay, In Defense of Natural Theology (coeditor), Unmasking the New Age, Jesus in an Age of Controversy, Deceived by the Light, The Soul in Cyberspace, and, in the Wadsworth Philosophers Series, On Pascal and On Jesus.

There are of course many books on Christian Apologetics. I value this book for two reasons:1. The first chapters give an excellent review of apologetics and a clear difference on how various apologetic methods differ. Author contends that there is no one method where "one size fits all", and he gives reasons for this. One reason is that some methods are self-referentially contradictory, that

is, the methodology by itself does not meet the criteria for accepting the method they propose. In summary, with regard to methods of apologetics author would contend: "go carefully and piece by piece" . . . since it is difficult for one method to bear the whole weight of Christian apologetics.2. The information about some categories used in defense of the Christian faith are always changing and advancing in favor of the Christian World and Life View. This is especially the case for arguments with regard to: cosmology, origins, intelligent design, ontology, and religious experience. For example, the author reports on the ground-breaking work of Stephen Meyer in abiogenesis and DNA information. Meyer's best sellers, "Signature in the Cell" and "Darwin's Doubt" qualify as some of the best scientific research and reporting in these areas. In the area of cosmology, he updates the knowledge of how our universe is "fine tuned" for human habitation. In the area of ontology, he shows how the materialist/Darwinist view falls short, by advancing knowledge of brain-mind duality (that they are connected but completely separate) and referring to latest brain and mind research.The often cited defense of the historical and biblical accounts of the life, miracles, and resurrection of Christ are included in Chapters 20 and 21 to make his his work complete.In conclusion, the author cites the importance of Christian apologetics:"We should hear apologetics ringing out from the pulpit and being discussed in every level of Christian education. Apologetics should be a part of the core curriculum at seminaries, Christian colleges and high schools. Every level of publishing --Christian and secular ---should feel the force of Christian persuasion, both at the academic and popular levels."

I love apologetics and to say I have a few books on the topic is a vast understatement. And yet now as I look over my collection there is no one book which I have which covers the depth of apologetics and arguments as this book does. The only books which might come close isÃ Â Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (Baker Reference Library)Ã Â andÃ Â Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview, but yet those books are different. Geisler's Encylopedia of Christian Apologetics is a dictionary and not is not one coherent argument for the Christian Faith, while Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview is more general in providing foundations for the Christian worldview by exploring topics like what is philosophy, general ontolgy, philosophy of time, ethics, different models for the trinity and the like. Groothuis's Christian Apologetics is focused on making the case for the biblical case and he does an astonishing job at this, rather than providing a general education on philosophical issues.His book addresses these topics:Part I: Apologetic Preliminaries1 Introduction: Hope, Despair and Knowing Reality2 The Biblical Basis for Apologetics3 Apologetic Method: Evaluating Worldviews4 The Christian Worldview5 Distortions of

the Christian Worldview--or the God I Don’t Believe In6 Truth Defined and Defended7 Why Truth Matters Most: Searching for Truth in Postmodern Times8 Faith, Risk and Rationality: The Prudential Incentives to Christian FaithPart II: The Case for Christian Theism9 In Defense of Theistic Arguments10 The Ontological Argument11 Cosmological Arguments: A Cause for the Cosmos12 The Design Argument: Cosmic Fine-Tuning13 Origins, Design and Darwinism14 Evidence for Intelligent Design15 The Moral Argument for God16 The Argument from Religious Experience17 The Uniqueness of Humanity: Consciousness and Cognition18 Deposed Royalty: Pascal’s Anthropological Argument19 Jesus of Nazareth: How Historians Can Know Him and Why It Mattersby Craig L. Bloomberg20 The Claims, Credentials and Achievements of Jesus Christ21 Defending the Incarnation22 The Resurrection of JesusPart III: Objections to Christian Theism23 Religious Pluralism: Many Religions, One Truth24 Apologetics and the Challenge of Islam25 The Problem of Evil: Dead Ends and the Christian Answer26 Conclusion: Take It to the StreetsAppendix 1 Hell on TrialAppendix 2 Apologetic Issues in the Old TestamentBy Richard S. HessWhat made me smile the most when I looked at the table of contents was the fact that the difficult three arguments were included: The Ontological Argument, The Argument from Religious Experience and The Uniqueness of Humanity: Consciousness and Cognition. And most shocking is that the tome of weighty issues starts off like a story, not delving into arguments immediately, but first sets the scene asking "is there hope for the universe?" And then moves into providing support for the biblical basis for apologetics, talks about worldviews and defend the corresponding theory of truth and then and only then do the arguments start. I could go on and on. But there is the bottom line if you choose not to get this book be prepared to buy at least 10+ books to cover all the issues described wherein this magisterial work.This only thing this books lacks is a history of Christian Apologetics, but at 700+ pages its a nice extra but not demanded for the budding apologist. This deficiency can be solved by obtainingÃ Â Reasons for Our Hope: An Introduction to Christian ApologeticsÃ Â (with it great history section, but not as great other sections) orÃ Â A History of Apologetics.For most Christians I feel thatÃ Â Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical FaithÃ Â book andÃ Â Philosophical Foundations for a Christian WorldviewÃ Â is all that most Christians will need to be able to be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you".

My criticisms of this book echo what I’ve read others say. The book is strong inasmuch as the author stays within his intellectual bounds. The philosophical parts are interesting and, despite having read such books before, have some new information (for me, anyway). Where the book fails

is when it combats evolution. These are the weakest arguments of the book. Then again, the author is not a biologist. So, perhaps he should have left such a discussion for someone better qualified. Particularly annoying is the "icon" of the embryo development. No serious biologist uses this as an argument for evolution. No one does, actually.Finally, the author seems to reference quotes from third parties. This gives the feeling (and the worry) that he may be cherry-picking quotes out of context and setting up straw men. (I won't go so far as to accuse him of this, but I feel it is an honest fear.) Other than those criticisms, very interesting and informative.

Douglas Groothuis has done a masterful job in Christian Apologetics. The word "comprehensive" is a good way of describing the book. The author begins with the Biblical Basis for Apologetics and moves through the Apologetic Method into both the Christian worldview and its distortions. Part Two of the book, The Case for Christian Theism, presents the better-known apologetic arguments beautifully and in a way that will help Christians of all types of gifts and skills prepare themselves for spiritual battle. The special sections about the Challenge of Islam and Hell on Trial were especially helpful. I highly recommend this book for every Christian who is serious about defending the faith.

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