

# **CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?  
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

# CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

- **A Reasoned Defence of the faith**
- **Developing/Proposing grounds for faith and reasons to believe**
- **Engaging with current culture and intellectual climate**
- **Building faith of believers/encouraging non-believers to consider Christ**

# CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

## ITS TOOLS

- Mind; Debate; Argument

## THE CHRISTIAN'S DUTY

**“Love the Lord...with all your MIND” Mt. 22:37**

**“CONTEND for the faith” Jude 3**

**“Give an answer to all who ask you the REASON” 1 Peter 3:15**

# CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

## Apologetics v. Evangelism - The Difference?

### EVANGELISM

“Umbrella” word for sharing/proclaiming the Gospel

### APOLOGETICS

Presenting the case for Faith - prepares the ground for evangelism

# Acts 17:16-34

## Paul in Athens – Apologetics in Action

### LESSONS (1)

- Understand worldview and culture
- Start from current beliefs/outlook and build up the case for faith
- Apologetics has Practical and Intellectual objectives
  - Confronting false ideas with the truth
  - Provoking interest and desire to know more. Keep communication open
  - Evangelistic aspect. Persuading and encouraging to believe

# Acts 17: 16-34

## Paul in Athens – Apologetics in Action

### LESSONS (2)

Truth matters – but so do tone and method of presentation!

- Be motivated by care and share truth without alienating
- Present arguments graciously. Respect others' spiritual quest. Partnership not conflict
  - “Proclaim the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words”