

answers the question, Is Xy rationally defensible?

- c. Bernard Ramm, Types of Apologetic Systems (Van Kampen, 1953), 3-4:

With the rise of modern mentality and modern knowledge has come a large brood of tensions for the Xn apologist to mediate The function of Xn apologetics is to mediate these intellectual tensions. Arbitrarily we may divide apologetics into defensive and offensive apologetics. The former has as its task making reply to specific attacks on the Xn religion or faith. . . . Offensive or positive apologetics deals with the greatest tension of mind a Xn can face: in the full sense of the word true, is Xy true?

- d. Cornelius Van Til, Apologetics (syllabus, 1953), 1:
Apologetics is the vindication of the Xn philosophy of life against the various forms of the non-Xn philosophy of life.

4. Words of Interest from These Definitions

Defense, vindication
System, worldview
True, truth

B. THE NECESSITY OF APOLOGETICS

1. Apologetics Unnecessary?

Some do not admit the necessity of apologetics. They may be roughly classified as follows:

- a. Those who believe apologetics is UNWARRANTED
--unwarranted by Scripture
- b. Those who believe apologetics is USELESS
--useless for evidential apologist because only a probable level of truth can be reached
--useless for presuppositional apologist because the choice of most ultimate presuppositions cannot be justified
- c. Those who believe apologetics to be SHAMEFUL
--shameful because God needs no defense; He is launching attack after attack on sinful man

2. Apologetics Necessary!

But Scripture, the task of the church, and the spiritual warfare raging around us, indicate it is necessary: