

#### IV. THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CHRISTIAN APOLOGETIC

##### A. THE LOCATION OF A POINT OF CONTACT

###### 1. The Meaning of "Point of Contact"

The question here is this, "Has God provided any existing connection between Himself and mankind which constitutes a real precondition for a meaningful apologetic by a believer to an unbeliever?"

###### 2. Locating a Point of Contact in Man Being Created in God's Image

###### a. The Fact of the Image

Gen 1:26-27 tells us: "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. . . And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'"

###### b. The Meaning of "Image"

If man has been created in the image and likeness of God, then in some sense man is like God. And if man is like God, then we must ask what God is like.

A brief statement is: "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth."

We may thus express how man is like God as follows: "Man is a spirit, finite, temporal, and changeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth."

Sometimes the image is expressed in terms of man's rational, moral, and spiritual nature. In these aspects man was created in God's image as a person.

###### c. The Effects of Sin Upon the Image

The question is this: Did sin wipe out, completely annihilate, the image of God in man, or not?

James 3:9, speaking of the tongue, says: "With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God."

Gen 9:6 says: "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made