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APOLOGETICS

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What is Apologetics?

The term **Apologetics** is derived from the Greek word **Apologia**, which was a legal term. It referred to presenting a **rational defence** or an argument to clear oneself of charges or accusations. In essence, it was a speech given in one's defence against an accusation. If someone accused another person of wrongdoing, the accused had the right to present an **Apologia**, or a defence, to clear their name.

The literal meaning of **Apologia** is “to speak in defence” or “to remove accusations through reasoning.”

Use of Apologia in the New Testament

The word **Apologia** appears in several places in the New Testament, such as:

- Acts 22:1
- 1 Corinthians 9:3
- 2 Corinthians 7:11
- Philippians 1:7
- Philippians 1:16
- 2 Timothy 4:16
- 1 Peter 3:15

All Christians who engage in defending their faith are, in essence, **Apologists**.

Key Principles of Apologetics

1. Prayer

First and foremost, it is vital to remember that we cannot convince anyone by our own strength, wisdom, or arguments. It is God who convicts and transforms lives.

- Acts 16:14
- Luke 24:45

2. The Word of God

There is nothing in the world more powerful than the Word of God.

- Hebrews 4:12
Many believe that if someone does not accept the Bible, they should be convinced

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using their own religious texts. Personally, I do not adhere to this idea. My faith rests on the belief that only God's Word has the power to transform lives. No other source can bring about such change.

3. Listen First, Then Speak

A good apologist must be an excellent listener. To become a good listener, consider the following guidelines:

- Turn your face towards the person speaking and make **eye contact** while they talk.
- Observe their **gestures** or body language along with their words.
- Do not **interrupt** while they are speaking.
- Avoid jumping to conclusions or interrupting with your opinions.
- Assure the speaker that you are listening attentively.
- Do not impose your views on others.
- If something is unclear, ask questions to clarify.
- Summarize what the person has said before responding.

By following these principles, you can engage effectively in **Apologetics** and defend the faith with wisdom, respect, and humility.