

Introduction to Apologetics

SESSION 1: WHAT IS APOLOGETICS

1C: Audiences, Categories, and Desired Outcomes Related to Apologetics

1. Distinct Audiences (cf. Acts 17:32-34)
 - a. Scoffers—those who dispute Christianity.
 - b. Seekers—those who desire to know more about Christianity.
 - c. Saints—those who devote themselves to Christ.
2. Doubt Categories
 - a. Emotional (e.g., Nicodemus (unbeliever) and John the Baptist (believer))
 - b. Factual (e.g., Saul (unbeliever) and Thomas (believer))
 - c. Volitional/Willful (e.g., the Pharisees (unbelievers) and the Galatians (believers))
3. Desired Outcomes
 - a. Skeptics may be more hostile, while seekers may be more curious.
 - i. In these instances, apologetics is an aid to evangelism as it seeks to remove barriers keeping skeptics and seekers from coming to salvation.
 - ii. Examples include Peter's Pentecost sermon in Acts 2 and Paul's address on Mars Hill in Acts 17.
 - iii. Remember, apologetics with skeptics and seekers is a means, but evangelism is the end goal.
 - b. Saints are believers who struggle to grow in faith.
 - i. In this instance, apologetic is an aid to discipleship as it seeks to remove barriers keeping saints from growing in sanctification.
 - ii. Examples include Joshua's farewell address (Joshua 23) and Paul's epistle to the Galatians.
 - iii. Remember, apologetics with saints is a means, but sanctification is the end goal.

