PART ONE: DEVELOPING AN APOLOGETIC PERSPECTIVE

1. Introduction to Apologetics II Elements of Apologetics 13 The context 13 The point of view 14 The starting point IS Questions about Apologetics 10 What does a Christian defend? 10 But is it really necessary to defend Christianity? 10 Does sin make reason unreliable? 20 Who needs apologetics? 20 What are the place of revelation and the role of the Holy Spirit in apologetics? 21

2. Historical Sketch of Apologetics 23 The New Testament 23 Confrontation with Judaism 24 Confrontation with Greek thought and paganism 25 Confrontation with the Roman Empire 26 The Early Church 26 The Middle Ages 31 The Reformation 35 The Age of Rationalism 37 The Modern Period 42 3. Elements of Apologetic Argument 52 Does Christianity Fit the Facts? 53 The natural order 54 The witness of history 57 Does Christianity Make Sense? 60 Does Christianity Matter? 65 Individual relevance 66 Cultural relevance 68 Excursus: Theistic Argumentation 70

4. Basic Framework: Christianity as the Project of God 74 Biblical Basis 77 Historical Support 79 Personal Potential 82

PART TWO: MEETING SPECIFIC CHALLENGES ΤΟ CHRISTIANITΥ

5. Alternative Frameworks to Christianity 87 Naturalism 88 Idealism 94 Eastern religious philosophy 94 Christian response to Eastern religion 99

6. Is Christianity for All or Only a Few? 104 Universalism 105 Syncretism 111

7. The Empirical Sciences 120 Christianity and the Rise of Modern Science 121 Potential Tension Areas between Christianity and Science 127 Centrality of humanity 127 Resurrection and immortality 128 Location of heaven 128 A personal God 129 Evolution 129 The Relation between Christianity and Science 131 8. The Social Sciences 135 Psychology 136 Sigmund Freud 136 B. F. Skinner 140 Sociology 145

9. The Problem of Evil 152 The Problem Stated 153 The Christian Response 156 Appeal to origins 156 Appeal to mystery 157 Appeal to God's larger purposes 158 Appeal to God's present purposes 160 Appeal to God's final purposes 162 Diagram: Approaches to the Problem of Evil 165

10. Marxism 166 The Challenge of Communism 167 The Marxist Critique of Religion 169 The Christian Critique of Marxism 172 Contemporary Communism 172 The status of Marxist theory 174 Critical questions about Marxism 176 The Christian alternative to the Marxist hope 178

11. Epilog: Building Our Apologetic on Rock or on Sand 181

Bibliography of Works Cited 185