

[The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics:  
Surveying the Evidence for the  
Truth of Christianity](#)

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## INTRODUCTION

*“It is no longer enough for you Christians to believe something. We won’t accept simple belief. You have to be able to explain your beliefs and defend them to a growing number of skeptics who do not hold your assumptions. Step up to the plate, or stop trying to present Christianity as a valid system!”*

IN THE SPRING OF 2007, Ergun debated a group of atheists. The debate was broadcast on the radio and Internet, and became one of the most downloaded programs of the genre. A listener phoned in and presented a simple premise: Either defend Christianity in the midst of the marketplace, or *stop* believing. For about four hours, Ergun presented Christianity using reason, logic, and evidence. The quote above is from someone who was responding to a previous caller, a self-proclaimed Christian. She said evidence was not necessary for faith in Jesus Christ. As long as we *believed*, that was enough. The subsequent caller attacked that premise.

Perhaps on one level, he was right. Skeptics often state that Christians seem to exist in a bubble. That is, we preach sermons to Christians, debate each other, and write books that only interest other Christians. Rarely do we as Christians venture out into the marketplace of ideas to ply our trade of defending Christianity.

That is the purpose of this book. We wanted to place in your hands a tool that will enable you to both defend your faith and answer the major objections to Christianity. More specifically, we wanted to provide a resource that is accessible to every Christian—a popular encyclopedia that avoids the technical jargon of specialists while cogently presenting a Christian response to skeptics and cynics.

This type of approach is not new. In fact, the leaders of the early church obviously believed in defending their faith. Ignatius, the Bishop of Antioch, who was martyred in A.D. 107, argued that if Christians did not know how to reasonably reply to genuine questions, then they would be susceptible to “dumb dogs, that cannot bark, raving mad, and biting secretly, against whom you must be on your guard, since they labor under an incurable disease” (*To the Ephesians*, chapter 7, in *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, 1:107).

Throughout the centuries, Christianity has been an intellectual faith and a heartfelt system. Christians do not “check their minds at the door” and believe any random teaching that happens to sound good. We are a people who learn to discern good from evil and defend Christ as the Hope of Glory. In a chaotic world of competing worldviews, we can do no less.

Therefore, the editors have enlisted more than 60 authors who are experts in their respective fields, asking them to write articles designed to give you the best possible answers to honest queries. These 180 articles are the result and comprise a one-volume resource that is rich in detail and truth. Each author is an evangelical scholar, and the articles examine some of the most compelling and contemporary issues we face. The articles are readable, practical, and profound. We pray it serves you, a Christian, as a worthy instrument in the battle for truth.

*Edward E. Hindson*  
*Ergun Mehmet Caner*  
General Editors  
Lynchburg, Virginia