

You Are an Apologist

By Dan Jensen (2024)

(In order to fully benefit from this essay, I recommend reading through my “works for beginners” first. They can be found on my website.)

It is very common to hear today, especially from the pop-Fundamentalist YT Atheists, that we as the defenders of Biblical Christianity should be summarily dismissed because we are just a bunch of “apologists.” According to them, apologists can’t possibly look at the evidence objectively and only filter it through their already existing believing presuppositions. Often the “apologists” are contrasted with the YTer or his or her favorite scholar or scholars. When we point out that they are just as much apologists for their worldview as are we, they cry with the loudest of protests.

The basic definition of *apologist*, that can be found in almost any modern dictionary, is one who defends something that is debatable or controversial. The term does not solely refer to orthodox Christian defenders. Now, I have often said that dictionaries do get things wrong, especially when dealing with terms as they have been used historically. So, is that the case here? Nope. The same basic definition has always been in play. The etymology of the word basically means one who gives a defense. It has tenaciously held this basic meaning throughout history. It is true that often the term is used to more specifically denote religious defenses, but this is only because almost all people have been religious until recently.

The idea that Atheists just go wherever the evidence leads and leave it at that, thus making them not apologists, is nothing more than the patting on the back that is so characteristic of that worldview. Most of the pop-Fundamentalist YT Atheists routinely tout some of the fringe theories and fringe scholars on the market today. Thus, demonstrating the entirely vacuous nature of their claim. Atheism is a worldview. It is

plagued by problems. Therefore, anyone who seeks to defend it is an Atheist apologist. This is not rocket science folks. And that is true of anyone who seeks to defend his or her worldview. The idea that any worldview, including my own, is free from all problems is laughable and only serves to establish the ignorance of the person making this absurd claim far more capably than I could ever do.