

aside; shows how certain others of them even though not perfect have in them a germ of truth and this germ of truth can be developed and extended and thus their mind can be led along until the child understands a larger area of truth. Apologetics is thus in the area of education. For an apologet to waste his time about whether the mind == whether the unbeliever thinks his mind is ~~autonomous~~ autonomous and must be show that he isn't is an utter waste of time. This is proper for systematics. It has no proper place in apologetics. The apology should take the unbeliever where he is and lead him on showing him the error of certain of his ideas, showing how certain other ideas have a germ of truth and which can be followed out reasonably to a conclusion which leads to the desire for Divine truth. An important negative part of apologetics of course is to show that arrival at complete truth regarding God, man's nature and the world, cannot be reached simply on human == simply from human sources but requires a/Divine revelation .

The attitude of some apologists consists of simply saying to the unbeliever, Unless you believe in the Triune God you cannot know ~~it~~ anything. There is no use arguing or discussing with you. I just tell you you're ideas are worthless; you must presuppose my ideas, or you can get nowhere. It is a question whether anyone has ever come to the Lord as a result of such reasoning. It merely irritates them, and unnecessarily drives him away. It may be very pleasing to the believer to be told how superior his mind is to that of the unbeliever, but to talk to the unbeliever in these terms accomplishes no good and merely irritates him.

Unfortunately very great amount of the so-called == of work in the so-called field of apologetics in recent years has consisted in this sort of discussion and argument, and it is an utter waste as far as apologetics is concerned even though from it may come valuable insights that are of help in the field of systematic theology.

Another cause of great error in apologetics is the attitude of some Christians who take utterly == take areas of human thought that begin with basic anti-Christian assumptions and then devote months and years to carrying these on to their logical conclusions and trying on the basis of these false principles to reach Christian conclusions. A tremendous amount of thought and effort of earnest Christians has been