



# Introduction to

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# APOLOGETICS

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## Session I: The What and Why

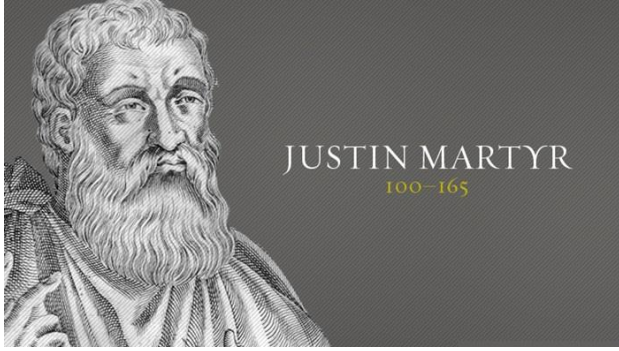








## Early Apologetics



Justin Martyr's Apology - dated to between AD 155-157. Justin responded to the Roman authorities over several misconceptions. Here are a few of the charges rebutted in his "Apology".

### 1. The First

The Christian community was charged with sedition. Christians were regarded as traitors undermining the authority of the empire. As early as 29 B.C., emperor worship had emerged, Reciting the phrase *Kaisar kurios* (Caesar is lord), burning incense to the emperor's image, or swearing by his name was required in order to prove loyalty to the state.

### 2. The Second

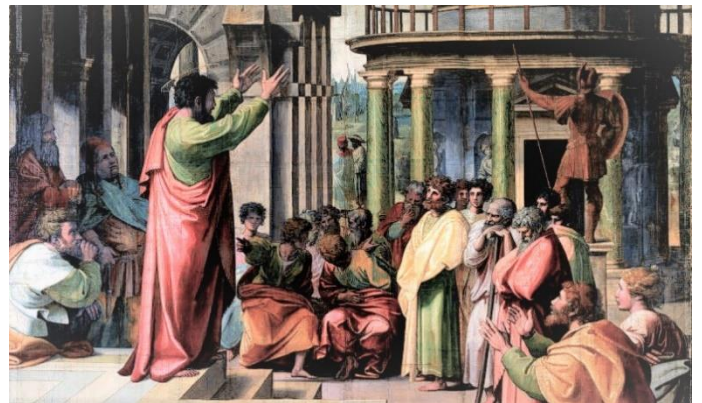
The charge of atheism was leveled against the early church, because of the Christians' refusal to worship the pantheon of Roman gods.

### 3. The Third

Charges brought against early Christianity came because of rumors concerning their secret meetings in places like the catacombs. From the practice of "love feasts" (where early Christians partook in a common meal—including Holy Communion—attesting to their unity with Christ and each other) came rumors of incest and sexual perversion.

### 4. The Fourth

They were charged with cannibalism (eating and drinking of human flesh and blood.)



An early glimpse of this collision between the Christian faith and pagan philosophy can be seen in Acts 17, the famed account of the apostle Paul on Mars' hill.





