

exactly what it teaches in any one of the multitude of subjects with which it deals.-  
This is a sad neglect.

The field of ~~apolo~~ apologetics was extensively worked(in)in past generations but is largely neglected today. One reason for this is that people fail to separate sharply as they should the field of apologetics and the field of Systematic theology. Systematic theology is the effort of Christians to determine what God wants them to know by ascertaining what is taught in His revelation in the Bible. Apologetics is the attempt to determine how to remove the ~~false~~ <sup>false</sup> ideas that human beings have that lead them to be ~~un~~willing to face the facts of their sin and need of a Saviour and the all-sufficiency of Christ to meet their need. There is much argument about whether the mind of man is atonomous so that it can perceive truths or whether the only way that man can know anything is by first assuming the great truths of Christianity. Such argument and discussion may have a proper place in the field of theology but is entirely outside the ground of apologetics. The purpose of apologetics is not to show the non-Christian what he ought to believe. It is remove from the non-Christian === It is to show the non-Christian the error of the ideas that keep him from being willing to face the facts of sin and redeption. Thus the/Eventually <sup>question of the</sup> ability of the unbeliever's mind to comprehend truth is not a matter of apologetics but of systematic theology.

The **proper** function of apologetics is to take the mind of the unbeliever where he is and to show == lead him on to where he ought to be. It is not to tell the unbeliever where you are is utterly wrong; you must completely abandon it, and take a different position. This is vital in the area of evangelism. It is not a proper part of the work of apologetics.

A child may have many erroneous ideas. A good teacher does not go to the child and say, "Look here, you are just a child. You cannot know anything about these matters. Just listen to what the great experts have said on it and memorize  $\phi$  their words. It is foolish for you to think about them. You have to reach their position before you can even think." This is no way to educate a child. One goes to the child and takes the ideas the child already has, shows how certain of them are erroneous and can be reasonably cast