



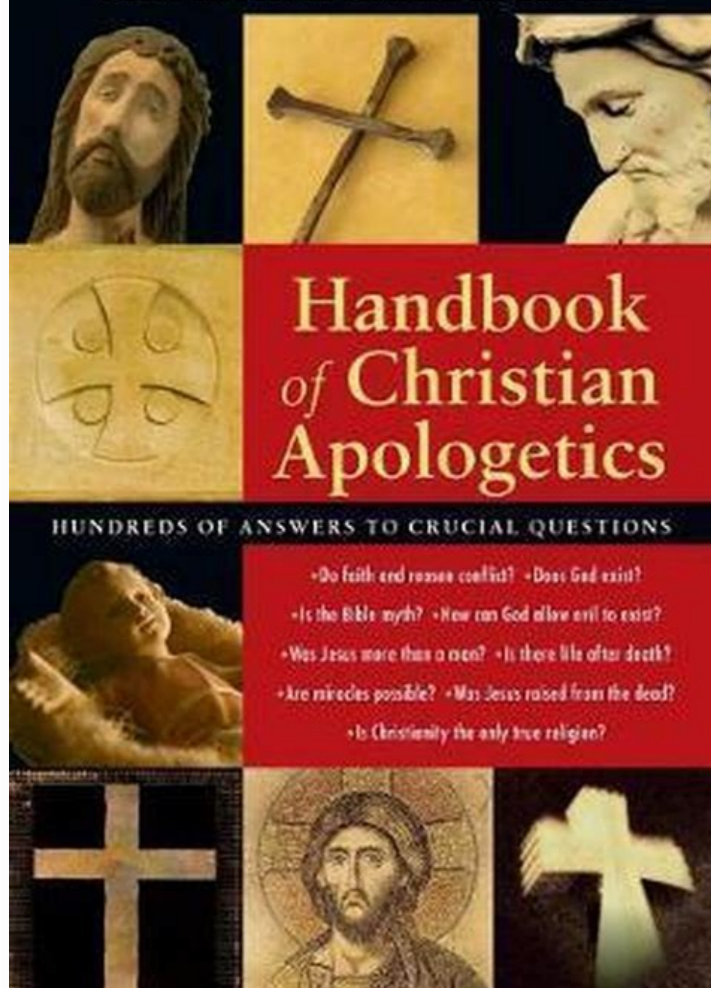
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Peter Kreeft & Ronald K. Tacelli



The Divinity of Christ

Pocket handbook of
Christian Apologetics

Chapter 8

Peter Kreeft & Ronald Tacelli

CHAPTER 1

The Nature, Power & Limitations of Apologetics

WE ARE WRITING THIS BOOK BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN BESIEGED WITH RE-quests for it.

We both teach philosophy of religion at Boston College, and students often ask us where they can find a book that lists, outlines or summarizes all the major arguments for all the major Christian teachings that are challenged by unbelievers today—such as the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, the trustworthiness of Scripture, and the divinity and resurrection of Christ—and answers the strongest and commonest objections against these doctrines. We were amazed to find that no such book exists! There are thousands of books on apologetics, and some very good ones, but not one of them summarizes apologetic arguments as Aquinas summarized theological arguments in his *Summa Theologiae* and *Summa Contra Gentiles*. This book is written to begin to fill that vacuum.

We even thought of titling it *Summa Apologetica*, but our publisher wisely rejected that title as unmarketable. Comparison with Aquinas's *Summas* may seem arrogant, even ludicrous; but we mean it to refer to the genus, not the genius, of Aquinas's works.

There were many *summas*, or summaries, in the Middle Ages, which condensed many arguments into a small space, carefully organizing and succinctly explaining them. A *summa* is meant to function as a digest or mini-encyclopedia. It need not be read in order from beginning to end. It can be used as a reference book or handbook. That genus is at least as useful today as it was in the Middle Ages, for two reasons. For one thing, we moderns, like the medievals, respect scientific order, clarity, rationality

