

long as you remember that it is a bit forced and only includes those whom we want to include! The particular classification is divided into apologists, polemicists, and shepherds.

III.3.a Apologists

Apologists

These are the thinkers who sought to explain Christianity to the world about and in the explanation to offer a defense for the faith and a refutation to the denials given against the faith.

--Justin Martyr (d. 165): Justin was converted from a pagan background and was schooled in legal and philosophical training. He regarded himself as a stoic (pre-Christian position) and was thoroughly skilled in Aristotle, Pythagoras, and Plato. His conversion came from a meeting with an elderly Christian and the subsequent work of the Spirit. He had been around Rome, knew the ropes, and gave himself vigorously to the debates of the day and the projection of Christianity as the logical result of the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures.

Martyr is the first of the apologists to give expression to the "scientific method" in apologetics, the offering of proof chiefly by the Old Testament texts. In doing so he challenged scoffers, cynics, etc., to "set forth their case" and he delighted in a point by point defense against the charges of the Judaic scholars that the church was new. He appears to have been the most precise and clearest thinker among the early apologists. His chief works are: FIRST AND SECOND APOLOGIES AGAINST PAGANISM, which was probably done about 147 AD and his DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO THE JEW, dating about 153 AD. His influence was enormous in molding the expression of Christian thought although his method will eventually lead to the allegorizing techniques of the school of Alexandria. Martyr has many followers in both methodology and points of argument and although there are some who do not appreciate this system, the whole church is much in debt to his efforts.

Tatian (ca. 170)

A disciple of Martyr, Tatian was similarly a person of legal training and disciplined in the art of precise logic and analysis.