



## ***Reimagining Apologetics*** *The Beauty of Faith in a Secular Age*

October 13, 2020 | \$28, 268 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5328-1

# Appealing to Resonant Faith

### What led to your interest in apologetics and now in sharing about it?

**Justin Bailey:** First in pastoral ministry, then in the classroom, I encountered a deep sense of dissonance in the young adults to whom I was ministering. They knew all of the right answers, but faith failed to captivate or bring coherence to their lives. I began to think that what was missing was an account of Christian faith that accounted for them as embodied, aesthetic, and imaginative persons. I was looking for a way of doing apologetics (if we can call it that) that offers food for the imagination, rather than simply giving facts for the intellect, which is the way that apologetics has traditionally been done.

### What is distinctive about your approach to apologetics?

**Justin:** Depending on whom you ask, apologetics is either thriving or dying in a secular age. Some have doubled down on the apologetic evidences of the past, while others have called for the end of apologetics for the church of the future. I argue that apologetics need not end, but it does need to be reimagined. It needs to take the faculty of imagination seriously, while not leaving intellect behind. As it appeals to the beauty of faith in a secular age, it needs to reckon with postromantic longing for authenticity, for a faith that is deeply resonant with our felt experience of the world. My book offers one possible approach.

### What do you hope your book contributes to the discipline of apologetics?

**Justin:**

- It offers a fresh way to think about the tired discipline of apologetics that is a bit more expansive and grounded in a more holistic view of the human person.
- It offers a theological account of how God engages, how sin impairs, and how grace renews the human imagination, with an eye for witness and ministry.
- It offers significant reflection in apologetic case studies from a nineteenth century author George MacDonald and a contemporary author Marilynne Robinson extending the scholarly conversation regarding both authors.



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