

But in theology the term Apologetics has a technical meaning which is entirely different. There is no apology in it at all. It is like the apology of Tertullian - he wasn't apologizing for his Christianity, he wasn't ashamed but he was sound. An apology in theology is a defense. Words get established and then the language changes or the knowledge of science changes and there is confusion. You will run into all sorts of things as you try to explain Christian ideas to people who aren't familiar with Christian life. So there is a great advantage to using common language but there is also a great difficulty. The Roman Catholic Church of course had avoided this because they give their mass in Latin but the common people listening have no idea what they are talking about. The theologians know what they are doing and they know what they are talking about and they don't care whether the people understand.

question - The Latin word originally meant a man but it came to mean an individual human being. Then it was taken over into English, I don't know if it was taken directly from Latin or through the French. Many of our Latin words are taken through French but it was taken into English to mean one of the meanings which it has come to mean in Latin. Now of course as used of Christ it doesn't mean either one, it does not mean that he is a man and it does not mean that he is an individual human being so we are using the word in still a third sense. But in a sense which in the Latin seems to be in a way somewhere between the common usages and seems appropriate use in that language. In English we say that Jesus is a distinct person from God the Father and if you use the word Person in strictly an English sense it is not true but I don't know of any other way to express what we mean. So it is good to use the word but use it with realization that attempting to explain in human language a theological fact which has no parallel has no exact way to express it. It is like a man who sent me a book some years ago and wanted me to go over the manuscript. His idea was not that I prove the manuscript but that I see how good it was and give him a good recommendation for publication.