I. **The Current Situation**

(Read *Ideas Have Consequences*, by Richard Weaver; *Modern Times and Intellectuals*, by Paul Johnson; *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life*, by Jacques Barzun)

A. Post-modernism

(Read *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*, by Edward E. Veith; *Truth Decay: Defending Christianity against the Challenges of Postmodernism*, by Douglas Groothuis)

B. “Relativism” vs. the new absolutes


C. The new “tolerance”

(Read *The New Absolutes*, by William D. Watkins; *When Tolerance Is No Virtue*, by S. D. Gaede)

D. Political correctness


E. Scientism and philosophical naturalism

(Read *Christianity and the Nature of Science*, by J. P. Moreland; *Reason in the Balance: The Case against Naturalism in Science, Law and Education*, by Phillip E. Johnson)

F. Decline of reason

(Read *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, by Neil Postman; *Fear of Knowledge: Against Relativism and Constructivism*, by Paul Boghossian)

G. Decline of morality

(Read *Why Johnny Can’t Tell Right from Wrong*, by William Kilpatrick; *The Abolition of Man*, by C. S. Lewis; *The Demoralization of Society: From Victorian Virtues to Modern Values*, by Gertrude Himmelfarb; *Degenerate Moderns: Modernity as Rationalized Sexual Misbehavior*, by E. Michael Jones)

H. Decline of marriage and the family


I. The turn to Eastern beliefs and practices
(Read The Making of the New Spirituality: The Eclipse of the Western Religious Tradition, by James A. Herrick)

J. Competing worldviews

K. Competing religions
(Read Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions, by Winfried Corduan; The Kingdom of the Cults, by Walter R. Martin; While Europe Slept: How Radical Islam Is Destroying the West from Within, by Bruce Bawer)

L. Emerging statism
(Read The Politics of Envy: Statism as Theology, by Doug Bandow; A Conflict of Visions: Ideological Origins of Political Struggles, by Thomas Sowell; The Road to Serfdom, by F. A. Hayek)

M. Anti-Christian ignorance and bigotry

II. Answering Christianity’s Critics: Some Biblical Considerations

A. We are to defend the Christian faith ...

1. By answering its critics’ arguments against Christianity (going on the defense) – 1 Pet. 3:15

2. By refuting its critics’ own views (going on the offense) – Acts 17:1-4; 2 Cor. 10:5; Titus 1:9-11; Jude 3-4

B. Jesus’ example (the four Gospels, esp. encounters with the Jewish religious leaders and scholars)

C. Matthew’s example (Gospel of Matthew)

D. Luke’s example (Gospel of Luke; Acts)

E. John’s example (Gospel of John, esp. 20:30-31)

F. Paul’s example (Acts; Galatians; Romans)
G. The writer of Hebrews

III. **How Christian Writers Can Effectively Answer Christianity’s Critics**

A. To understand the critics, you need to understand our times and how we got here.

B. Build bridges of commonality wherever possible.

C. Probe the issues more deeply and more thoroughly than the critics do.

D. Use sources the critics respect, even if begrudgingly.

E. Fairly and accurately restate what the critics believe and why.

F. Expose and refute the errors of the critics, including self-defeating claims.

G. Use the betrayal of behavior.

H. Focus on fundamentals, not peripherals.

I. Provide sound reasons, ample evidence, and insightful illustrations to support your case.

J. Use the Bible accurately and judiciously.

K. Do not overstate your case.

L. Answer with courage and persistence.

IV. **Christian Defenders to Emulate**

A. Some significant Christian writers from the past
Irenaeus
Athanasius
Augustine
Anselm
Thomas Aquinas
Blaise Pascal
John Locke

Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Thomas Reid
Charles Dickens
Soren Kierkegaard
B. B. Warfield
William G. T. Shedd
Frederick Douglass

B. Some significant Christian writers from the 20th and 21st centuries

G. K. Chesterton
Dorothy Day
J. Gresham Machen
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
Dorothy L. Sayers
D. Elton Trueblood
Reinhold Niebuhr
Etienne Gilson
E. L. Mascall
Frederick Copleston
Christopher Dawson
C. S. Lewis
Jacques Ellul
Francis Schaeffer
Bernard Ramm
Walter R. Martin
Martin Luther King Jr.
John Paul II
Richard John Neuhaus
Charles Colson
Phillip E. Johnson
Mona Charen
William Bennett
Gertrude Himmelfarb
Dinesh D'Souza
Gary R. Habermas
Nigel M. Cameron

N. T. Wright
Charles B. Thaxton
Frederica Mathewes-Green
William Lane Craig
Francis Beckwith
Norman L. Geisler
William A. Dembski
Os Guinness
Peter Kreeft
Gilbert Meilaender
Nancy Pearcey
David F. Wells
Paul Johnson
Elizabeth Fox-Genovese
George Weigel
Rodney Stark
Winfried Corduan
Douglas Groothuis
D. A. Carson
Ronald H. Nash
Richard Swinburne
Mark A. Noll
Alvin Plantinga
Ravi Zacharias
Charles M. Taylor
Dallas Willard