

# Answering Common Objections To Christianity

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### Six Major Objections:

1. Is there a God'?
2. Is the Bible true?
3. What about evil?
4. Is Jesus the only way?
5. What about the unevangelized?
6. What about hypocrisy?

You cannot argue someone into the Kingdom of God. This information is to help genuine skeptics answer their questions. The most effective approach is to develop an ongoing, unconditional relationship with the individual. Through your Christlike example to pray, serve, and share truth in love, your friend can be won to faith in Jesus Christ!

But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. I Peter 3:15-16

### Helpful Resources:

[www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org)                      [www.josh.org](http://www.josh.org)                      [www.apologeticsindex.org](http://www.apologeticsindex.org)  
[www .leestrob el .com](http://www.leestrob el .com)      [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org)  
[www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org)                      [www.normangeisler.com](http://www.normangeisler.com)  
[www.discipleshiplibrary.com/josh\\_mcdowell\\_classics.php](http://www.discipleshiplibrary.com/josh_mcdowell_classics.php)

### 1. Is There A God?

- A. God Does Not Exist
  - i. A person would have to be omniscient to know that God does not exist
  - ii. People do not live as though God does not exist. They behave as if there is meaning, value, and purpose in the world, but without God, there would be no real basis for these things.
  
- B. God May Exist
  - i. What kind of proof is necessary? Not 100 percent proof, but reasonable evidence. Cause and effect reasoning provides this evidence.
  - ii. The If Proposition: If anything now exists, something must be eternal, or else something not eternal must have emerged from nothing. Four alternatives:

1. The universe is an illusion. This is a self-defeating proposition and no one lives this way.

2. The universe is eternal. Three reasons why this is not true:

- a. Evidence for a beginning (the Big Bang).
- b. Hydrogen is not used up.
- c. Irreversible decay.

3. The universe emerged from nothing. But nothing produces nothing. No effect can exist without a cause.

4. The universe was created by an eternal Being. The universe points beyond itself to an eternal and necessary Being.

C. God Does Exist

i. Impersonal or personal? Two reasons why this eternal Being is personal:

1. The complexity of the universe; design requires a designer.

2. The nature of man; thought, aesthetics and morality cannot be the products of an impersonal Creator.

ii. Only a personal God provides the basis for meaning, value, and purpose.

iii. The claims of Christ and the Gospel.

2. Is The Bible True?

A. The Bible Is Not Trustworthy

B. There Are Problems With The Bible

C. The Bible Is Trustworthy

3. What About Evil?

A. Evil Exists And God Doesn't

i. Since God is all-good and all-powerful, He will and can destroy evil. Evil exists but it will be destroyed.

ii. Regardless of the problem of evil, God exists.

B. God Exists And Evil Doesn't

i. One would have to deny his own senses and experiences to maintain this

view. This is self-defeating.

- ii. One would also have to deny scientific evidence for natural evil and historical evidence for moral evil.
- iii. This also requires a denial of the clear testimony of Christ and the Bible.

C. God Exists And Evil Exists

i. Evil is greater than God (finitism).

- 1. It is wrong to assume that since God has not yet defeated evil He therefore cannot. God's timing is not human timing.
- 2. There would be no hope of a solution to evil if God were finite.
- 3. The Bible clearly teaches the omnipotence of God and His future defeat of evil.

ii. God and evil are equal but opposite (dualism).

- 1. The idea of two absolute coequals in eternal opposition is logically absurd.
- 2. Evil is a corruption and negation of good; it is a distortion of God's good creation, and it has not always existed.
- 3. The Bible teaches that God is greater than evil and will defeat it.

D. God Is Greater Than Evil (theism).

i. The problem of causation: why did God allow evil to occur at all?

- 1. God is not responsible for evil and sin. Evil was introduced in the human race by the rebellious choice of responsible creatures.
- 2. The Fall had temporal and eternal consequences: the curse upon the earth and the eternal separation of unredeemed people from God.
- 3. Our only hope of overcoming these consequences is the substitutionary work of the sin-bearer Jesus Christ who bore our penalty.
- 4. God's provision for our sins must be accepted or rejected; the choice is ours.

ii. The problem of cessation: if God can stop evil, why hasn't lie?

- 1. People want God to partially eliminate evil. If all evil were eradicated, who would be left?
- 2. God promises to completely eliminate evil by defeating it forever.

4. Is Jesus The Only Way?

A. Christianity Is Not Narrow

- i. This conflicts with the exclusive claims of Christ.

- ii. This also conflicts with the testimony of the Apostles.
- iii. All alternatives apart from Christ reduce to hopeless systems of human effort.

B. Christianity Is Narrow And Wrong

- i. False assumption that sincerity makes something true.
- ii. False assumption that belief makes something true.
- iii. False assumption that exclusiveness makes something wrong.
- iv. All religions differ from one another and hold exclusive views about God, man, and salvation. Either one is right and the rest are wrong, or they are all wrong; they cannot all be right.

D. Christianity Is Narrow And True

- i. Because of the unique claims and credentials of Christ, there are only three options concerning Him: He was a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. His character rules out the first two.
- ii. The reliability of the Bible refutes the fourth option, that He was a legend.
- iii. All people including Jews and Gentiles are in need of a relationship with Christ to be reconciled to God.
- iv. Since Christ is the only solution, it is not arrogant or condescending to share Him with others.
- v. Christianity is either broad or narrow. If it is narrow, it is either narrow and wrong or narrow and true.

5. What About The Unevangelized?

A. God Will Not Judge Those Who Have Not Heard

- i. If so, Christian missions are a mistake because they put a burden of responsibility on those who were previously innocent.
- ii. The Scriptures clearly teach that all people will stand before God in judgment. Sin is a universal human condition which leads to separation from a holy God.

B. God's Judgment Of Those Who Have Not Heard Is \_\_\_\_\_

- i. The Bible teaches the righteousness of God and the Fairness of His judgment. This judgment is based on the light people have, and He does not hold them accountable for what they do not know.
- ii. Because of external revelation (nature) and internal revelation (an inner awareness of the existence of God), no one is completely ignorant of the one true God.
- iii. Because of the universality of moral standards and the human

- conscience, no one is completely ignorant of the nature of sin.
- iv. Each person must respond to what knowledge he has about God and sin. Those who respond to the light they have received will receive more light. God will be found by those who seek Him.
  - v. God is sovereign, and He knows every human heart. He is able to provide the news about His Son to all who want to know the truth.
  - vi. Salvation has always been by grace through faith, and the basis of salvation has always been the death of Christ, even before His earthly life.
  - vii. Some people (infants and the mentally deficient) are incapable of a response, but God will not hold them accountable for that to which they could not respond.

#### C. God's Judgment Of Those Who Have Not Heard Is Fair

- i. While God does not hold people accountable for what they could not know, He does hold them accountable for the knowledge they do have.
- ii. Those who raise this question know the message about Christ and are accountable for their response.

### 6. What About Hypocrisy?

#### A. Hypocrisy Invalidates Christianity

#### B. Hypocrisy Does Not Invalidate Christianity

*This information is part of Search Ministries curriculum on evangelism, please contact them at 410.740.5300 for more information.*