

Why Am I A Christian? (Apologetic Series)

I want to start an apologetic article series that will appear regularly in this bulletin answering the question “*Why am I a Christian?*”, and I hope that such a series will prove helpful to you in figuring out the answer to that question for yourself, while also providing a Christian evidences resource to share with friends and skeptics alike.

The answers I’m going to provide over the length of this series are simply solutions I’ve had to discover for myself. They’re the answers I provide others with whom I’m studying. They’re going to be colored by my own unique biases and fallible understandings. It’ll be the same for you, but even so, the most important question for you to answer for yourself is: Why are YOU a Christian?

Why am I a Christian? (First, because God granted me sight.)

(Second, because God raised Jesus from the dead.)

Third, because absolute truth makes the most sense of the world.

I’m a Christian because the worldview it provides makes the most sense of the world. Now there are a few ways that plays out but the first is that it provides a standard for right and wrong, for absolute truth, for universal morality. And if there is a law woven within the tapestry of the cosmos, there must be an origin for such a law, namely, a First Cause for the universe to be designed in such a way that (let’s say, for example) torturing children is always wrong – no matter when it happens, where it happens or who does the torturing.

Now there’s been a lot said in our day that such a divine straight-edge does not exist. It’s almost assumed in more academic quarters that all morality is socially constructed, that there is no real existence for it in reality, and that, ultimately, the concept of “truth” is relative and subjective, as opposed to objective and fixed. Many are content to accept this since it would seem that such a belief is rational and grants license to living independently of the concept of God (and any Judgment Day he threatens to bring).

If I’m honest, I have to say I can’t accept that view. That I don’t want to live independently of God because I’m not assured that such a view of the world is rational. In fact, I find it utterly irrational for the following reasons, to state a few:

- **Without God, anything goes.** Technically speaking, if there is no transcendent, divine law to keep us in check, what’s to prevent us from doing anything we set our hearts to do? Fyodor Dostoevsky famous wrote, “If God does not exist, everything is permitted.” Where is the power to stop someone from doing x and compelling them to do y if there is no such thing as right or wrong? Can people really be trusted to do the right thing all by their lonesome? Is that why we lock our doors at night? Who can believe it?
- **Hypocrisy in the atheistic worldview.** This point is based upon the preceding, but it advances the irrationality. The alternative to believing that the world is created with purpose and there are absolutes in the realms of right and wrong is to believe there is no purpose and nothing is truly right or wrong. The problem with this alternative is that no one lives that way. No one can. Not even atheists.

Richard Dawkins after a public lecture, confessed that he doesn’t practice what he

preaches. "I blame people, I give people credit." When asked if he saw the inconsistency in his views, he replied: "I sort of do, yes. But it is an inconsistency that we sort of have to live with, otherwise life would be intolerable." Not even Dawkins can live with the implications of the atheistic worldview.

The hypocrisy is all summed up pretty well in a word from G.K. Chesterton: "a man will lecture at the political meeting and complain that the natives are treated as animals, only to lecture at a scientific meeting and prove that he is one."

- **The claim "truth is relative" commits suicide.** Just think about it. If all truth is relative and has no objective value, then that statement itself (i.e., "all truth is relative") is relative – and therefore we need not believe it. In fact, most beliefs of the atheistic worldview commit suicide in similar fashion. As a further example, C.S. Lewis makes this rational point: in addressing the notion that we're not able to trust our moral intuitions because everything going on in the brain is just biochemistry, he says, "if I can't trust my own thinking, of course I can't trust the arguments leading to Atheism, and therefore have no reason to be an Atheist," i.e., if moral feeling is just a product of evolution and neurochemistry and we can't trust them, how can we trust any reasoning in the scientific field?

How can you possess the power to point to the crooked nature of something unless you have a straight-edge by which to judge? You can't! But Christianity can. Christianity is thoroughly equipped to fight against injustice, to plead the cause of the marginalized, to do everything that altruistic nonbelievers do – *but without contradicting their own beliefs*. Atheism in theory contradicts the function of most atheists, it seems like. It doesn't make sense. But Christianity – is it incongruous in theory and function? I think not. And that's another reason why I'm a Christian.