

# Apologetics | Week 7

## “Christianity is Repressive”

### I. Evidentiary Approach: Does Christianity crush? Compared to what?

- a. Internal to Christianity: Does Christianity *per se* make lives worse?
  - i. Life: Eternal (John 3:16); Abundant (10:10); Meaningful (Matt 6:25)
  - ii. Freedom: John 8:32 (truth); Gal 5:1; 2 Cor 3:17 (Spirit)
  - iii. Rules: Torah, legalism, grace (Gal 2:16)
  - iv. Relationships: Marriage (Gen 1); Household codes (Eph/Col)
  - v. Ethics: Love (1 Cor 13)
- b. External to Christianity: What is the actual impact of Christianity?
  - i. History: impact of the Judeo-Christian worldview (1800-1B/now-8B; 90/10)
  - ii. Culture: individuals, children, families, sick, poor
  - iii. Institutions: Government, education, healthcare, science, religion
  - iv. Personal well-being: study after study shows a strong correlation<sup>1</sup>

### II. Presuppositional Approach: Christianity is repressive

- a. What is meant by repressive? Modernity, Post-Modernity, Flight from Constraint
  - i. Modernity (facts + logic=proper orientation); Post- (no facts, logic-only power)
  - ii. Rousseau, Romantics, Freud, Nietzsche, Marx, Critical Theory
  - iii. Anything constraining *oppressed* expressive-individualism must be *repressed*
  - iv. Result: an inversion of the human project; anti-institution; anti-culture.
- b. The reality of constraint: being requires boundaries (Gen 1)
- c. The role of constraint: cultures, institutions, worldviews mediate the sacred
- d. Christianity and “purposed relationalism”
  - i. Made for, regulated by connection/ conformity with transcendent reality

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.gallup.com/opinion/polling-matters/389510/religion-wellbeing-update.aspx>

- ii. Competent, moral, flexible institutions mediate/ regulate process across time
- iii. Individuals contribute uniquely through institutions to True, Good, Beautiful
- e. Recovery and Celebration of the Judeo-Christian tradition upon which Western Values are based. Everyone taught “purposed relationalism”

### III. Conclusions