



Questioning the Big Objections to Christianity

How a Big God Makes Problems Look Small

Warning!

- Today we are focusing on strategy
 - +Arguments, not people
 - +Not what to say or how to say it
- Overwhelming Objections
 - +But you can be assured

Strategy

- Name and classify objections
 - +using key words and phrases
- To make objections easier to recognize and respond to
 - +Questioning the questioner (like Jesus!)
 - +Answering a fool according to his folly (Prov. 26:5)



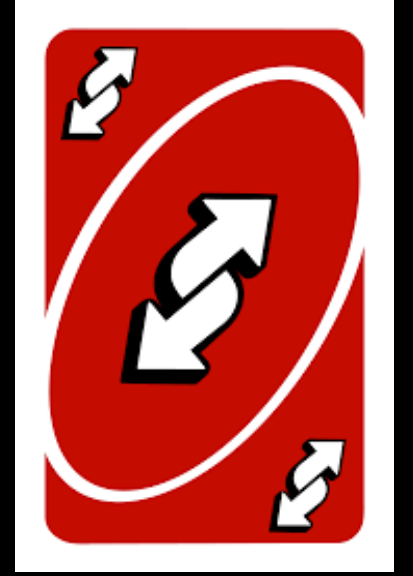
Presuppositionalism

- An apologetic approach that exposes the inconsistency of a person's assumptions and life in the light of God's Christ-centered revelation.

Presuppositional Method

- **Expose the lie** - Study a person through the lens of the Christian faith and draw out a problem that only Christ can solve.
- **Propose the truth** - Show how only the Christian faith makes sense of the problem and how Christ is the only solution.

Basically...



- Have *them* give a defense for the hope they have within them. (But will *they* do it with gentleness and respect?)

Top Objections

- **Moral Problems (Ethics)**
 - + The Justice Problem
 - + The Problem of Evil
 - + The Freedom Problem
- **Knowledge Problems (Epistemology)**
 - + The Truth Problem
 - + The Faith Problem
 - + The Blindness Problem
- **Being Problems (Metaphysics)**
 - + The Identity Problem

The Justice Problem

*How could a loving God send people to Hell?
There are people who have never even heard
of the Christian God, and there are good
people who are not Christians. What makes
Christians special enough to escape Hell?
Christianity is unfair.*

Title: The Justice Problem

How could a loving God send people to Hell? There are people who have never even heard of the Christian God, and there are good people who are not Christians. What makes Christians special enough to escape Hell? Christianity is unfair.

- **Classification: Moral Problem**
- **Strategy** – Show the moral weakness of justice without God compared to the strength of justice in Christ
- **Remember everyone is Religious**
 - Made in the image of God
 - Knowledge of God (though they do not acknowledge him)
 - Done, seen, and experienced **injustice**
 - They want a standard of good and evil that works for them.

Moral Problems: The Justice Problem

GODLESS JUSTICE

- Inherently unjust
 - + Always changing and conflicting
 - + Not applied justly
- Can't be accounted for
 - + Can't be scientifically established
 - + Isn't consistent with naturalism

CHRISTIAN JUSTICE

- Perfect because God is (Matt. 5:48)
 - + Not changing nor contradictory (James 1:17)
 - + Able to be just (all knowing, all powerful, and everywhere present) (Deut. 32:4)
- Has been supernaturally revealed to us (In the world, ourselves, in His Word, and in the Gospel) (Mic. 6:8; Rom. 1)

The Problem of Evil

If God is good, all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere, then why is there evil and suffering in the world? Either God can stop evil and suffering but refuses to or God is not able to stop evil and suffering at all. He is either not good or not God. Why would a good God allow evil and suffering in the first place?

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- **Classification: Moral Problem**
- **Strategy** – Show the moral weakness of dealing with evil *without God* compared to the strength of dealing with evil in Christ
- **Remember everyone is Religious**
 - Made in the image of God
 - Knowledge of God (though they do not acknowledge him)
 - Done, seen, and experienced **evil**.
 - They don't want to take responsibility for evil.

Moral Problems: The Problem of Evil

EVIL WITHOUT GOD

- All humans do evil
- No one can get rid of evil
- Not everyone agrees on what is evil
- Evil can't be accounted for
 - + Evil cannot be scientifically proven
 - + Evil is inconsistent with naturalism

EVIL WITH CHRIST

- God is good (Lk. 18:19)
- God can defeat evil (1 Cor. 15:25-26)
- God uses our evil for good (Gen. 50:20)
- God clearly reveals to us what is evil (Rom. 1)

The Freedom Problem

Christianity is judgmental. It tells people they are wrong for not believing, loving, and choosing what agrees with the Bible. It says that all other religions are wrong, that the LGBTQIA+ community shouldn't exist, and that women can't make their own choices about their body. What right do Christians have to force their religion on others?

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- **Classification: Moral Problem**
- **Strategy** – Show the moral weakness of freedom *without God* compared to the strength of freedom in Christ
- **Remember everyone is Religious**
 - Made in the image of God
 - Knowledge of God (though they do not acknowledge him)
 - Done, seen, and experienced harm.
 - Don't want to be ruled by God

Moral Problems: The Freedom Problem

FREEDOM WITHOUT GOD

- No one is totally free
- We all cross boundaries
- Humanity depends on rules and rulers for order
- Freedom can't be determined by by naturalism nor science

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

- God rules all (Rom. 2:2-16)
- God rules perfectly (Deut. 32:4)
- God has revealed to us His judgment (Rom. 1)
- True freedom is under Christ's Lordship (Rom. 6)

Moral Problems

- They can't be solved without God
- They can't be explained without God
- Yet all humans think and live as if morality matters. Why?

The Truth Problem

How do you know you're right and everyone else is wrong? What if they're we're all right or none of us are right?

Title: The Truth Problem

How do you know you're right and everyone else is wrong? What if they're we're all right or none of us are right?

- **Classification: Knowledge Problem**
- **Strategy** – Show the weakness of how they know what is truth *without God* compared to the strength of how we know what is true in Christ
- **Remember everyone is Religious**
 - Made in the image of God
 - Knowledge of God (though they do not acknowledge him)
 - They want to know what is true
 - They don't want to find out God is true, and they are wrong

Knowledge Problems: The Truth Problem

TRUTH WITHOUT GOD

- No one knows the whole truth
- Humans disagree on what is true
- Humans depend on truth for life
- No one can prove truth without assuming it (Logic/The Matrix)
- Truth doesn't matter in naturalism

TRUTH IN CHRIST

- God is the truth (John 3:33)
- God knows all truth (Is. 46:9-10)
- God is the source of truth (Is. 45:19)
- God has revealed to us what is true (John 14:6; 17:3)

The Faith Problem

- *There's no evidence for the Christian God. I've never seen him or anything supernatural. I can't reasonably trust what I can't see or can't know to be true. Faith is just blind, wishful thinking, not knowledge.*

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- **Classification: Knowledge Problem**
- **Strategy** – Show the weakness of how they know without faith in God compared to the strength of how we know by faith in Christ
- **Remember everyone is Religious**
 - Made in the image of God
 - Knowledge of God (though they do not acknowledge him)
 - Want to have certainty
 - Don't want to be dependent on God for truth

Knowledge Problems: The Faith Problem

KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT FAITH IN GOD

- Human knowledge is limited and often wrong
 - + Science can't disprove God
 - + Scientific findings change
 - + Science can't give certainty
 - + You can't see everything that matters
 - + Humans aren't trustworthy, not even our selves
- Faith precedes all knowledge and life

KNOWLEDGE BY FAITH IN CHRIST

- Faith is knowledge (Heb. 11)
- Faith is not without evidence (Heb. 11:1)
- Faith is reasonable (1 Pet. 3:15)
- Faith is certainty (Heb. 11:1)
- We can see more by faith than by our senses (John 12:45; Heb. 11)

The Problem of Blindness

I can't trust the Bible because it teaches slavery, treats women as property, promotes genocide, and centers on a story of cosmic child abuse. It's also full of contradictions between a loving God and Hell, Jesus and Paul, some texts vs other texts. Christians don't even follow the whole Bible's teaching, especially in the Old Testament. They are hypocritical and they use the Bible for political power as in Christendom and the Crusades. They think the Bible teaches illogical and impossible things like the Trinity and a red Devil with horns who tortures people for fun. The Bible is just a human book compiled by human beings It is full of errors, and they intentionally left out books.

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- **Strategy** – Show the weakness of how they know what the Bible teaches *without God* compared to the strength of how we know what the Bible teaches in Christ
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 - Made in the image of God
 - Knowledge of God (though they do not acknowledge him)
 - Don't want to hear to God

Knowledge Problems: The Problem of Blindness

THE BIBLE WITHOUT GOD

- Faith and humility are required for all understanding, especially the Bible
- Humans are not trustworthy
 - + Not all speak truthfully about the Bible
 - + Humans are the source of all the problems described in the Bible
 - + Humans are powerless to solve the world's problems

THE BIBLE IN CHRIST

- God's Word is Spiritually understood (1 Cor. 2:14)
- God's Word is more powerful than human words and can address the problems it describes (Heb. 4:12-13)
- The only way to know if the Bible is trustworthy is to hear it for yourself by God's mercy.

Knowledge Problems

- Humans admit their knowledge is limited
- They can't be absolutely sure they know anything
- Yet they think and live as if they know everything yet without faith. Why?

The Identity Problem

I don't like Christianity because _____.

It's no fun to me. It's doesn't work for me. It's too controlling for me. I have more important things to worry about. I don't have time for it. It's not good for society. Etc....

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- **Classification: Being Problem**
- **Strategy** – Show the weakness of being in a world *without God* compared to the strength of being in Christ
- **Remember everyone is Religious**
 - Made in the image of God
 - Knowledge of God (though they do not acknowledge him)
 - Want to know the meaning and purpose of life
 - Don't want to let God define their life

Being Problems: The Identity Problem

BEING IN A WORLD WITHOUT GOD

- No basis for order (chance/chaos)
 - + Life has no inherent purpose or meaning, problems or solutions
 - + Humans play god
 - “Might makes right”
 - Humans pretend to be superior to animals
 - + No lasting happiness

BEING IN THE WORLD WITH CHRIST

- God has ordered everything
 - + God defines purpose and meaning, good and evil, problems and solutions
 - + Humans are made in God’s image
 - God rules the conscience
 - We are superior to animals
 - + God is our everlasting happiness and reward

Being Problems

- Humans look to other creatures for purpose and meaning
- Humans can't escape disorder and domination
- Are we sure things are how they're supposed to *be*?