

Answering Objections to Christianity



Shining Mountains Bible Study Fall 2020

“Religion is sociologically-conditioned. You’re only Christian because you were brought up Christian. If you grew up in the Middle East, you’d be Muslim. Religion depends on your cultural upbringing, not on any objective standard.”

Introduction

“If you were born in Arkansas and you think Christianity is true and Islam is false, knowing full well that you would think the opposite if you had been born in Afghanistan, you are a victim of childhood indoctrination.”

–Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

Circle the one that you feel best describes you:

1. Very true	2. Somewhat true	3. Somewhat false	4. Very false
<i>“I feel I have been very indoctrinated. I would say I believe what I do only because my parents & church told me to. I have never been exposed or researched anything besides the Lutheranism I grew with.”</i>	<i>“I grew up in a Christian church and have gone to Christian schools, but I don’t believe it just because I was told that. I saw how what I was taught was true from the Bible.”</i>	<i>“Yes, I was taught Christianity, but I wouldn’t say it was shoved down my throat. I have researched other belief systems or world religions. I have met many other types of people as well: secularists & believers in other faiths. I know how Christianity compares to them.”</i>	<i>“I could explain right now in a clear way how the assumption Dawkins is making breaks down and why it doesn’t fit me.”</i>

2 Timothy 3:14-16: *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

Agree / Disagree & why: “We should not raise our children in a religious bubble so that they can make their faith their own later as adults.”

Community & Relativism

List five common beliefs or assumptions people believe simply because American culture tells them to:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Agree / Disagree & why: "It is possible to approach religious belief without any cultural framework at all."

Relativism is the philosophical premise that any truth claim is relative and based on a specific cultural upbringing or background. Because it is based on a personal, relativistic background, it is unreliable.

Explain the breakdown in logic: "Because belief is socially-conditioned, you can't judge the rightness or wrongness of a belief. (You can keep your beliefs private, but) no belief can be universally true for everyone."

Isolated Groups & the Gospel

Evaluate a similar objection: "It is not fair for God to not save isolated peoples if they never had the chance to hear about Jesus. If God really desires the salvation of all, he would give everyone an equal opportunity."

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

Acts 13:46 - *Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.*

Conclusion

Practice how you would answer the above objection to Christianity.