

Reasonable Faith

Has anyone ever told you Christianity requires blind faith in ancient fairy tales that no rational person would ever accept? As fantastic as the stories in the Bible are, that is reasonable to assume. However, that is simply not true. Christianity is actually the most rational belief system in the world! This teaching provides rational arguments for the existence of God, the existence of one true religion, a defense of the Bible, and rational arguments for Jesus being the Son of God.

Science Proves the Existence of God:

“¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” (Romans 1:18-20 NIV)

The greatest reason to believe in God is science. People often say that religion is what we used to explain life before science came along, but that is simply not true. Science shows that life, the world we live in, and the universe are so spectacular, there has to be a God. That is why many atheists who study science come to believe in God.

The first thing science proves is that life is too complex to be an accident. Just look at the human body. There are over 200 cells in the human body. (*Histology, Cell - Statpearls - NCBI Bookshelf*) All of those cells are so complex, the cells alone would be miracles if they came about by accident. Those cells group together into tissues, that group together into organs, that group together into organ systems, that group together to make up the human body. And every animal in the world is just as complex. The odds of this happening by accident are so unlikely, we have to conclude God created life.

Earth is another reason why we need God. For a planet to have life on it, there are many conditions that have to be met. These conditions are so demanding, that a life giving planet like Earth is another miracle that requires God’s creative work. (*Rare Earth Hypothesis: Why We Might Really Be Alone in the Universe*) The universe is another reason why we need God. Physics has actually proven that the universe was created. (*Is There Evidence for a Creator? | The Institute for Creation Research*) This means it was created by something, or someone. This gives us another reason to believe in the existence of God.

If you are an atheist, I encourage you to do your own research to see what you think about science and God.

The Existence of One True Religion Makes Sense:

Many people believe that all religions are acceptable ways to God, but does that really make sense? Every religion has a different understanding of God. Every religion has a different path to salvation. Even the way religions view the afterlife is different. There are two reasons to conclude that there is one true religion. One reason is that different beliefs can't all be true at the same time. Another reason is that it makes sense that God would reveal Himself in one of the religions. After all, if God expects things from us, it is reasonable He would let us know what those things are.

The Bible is Accurate and Inspired:

One thing that separates the Bible from other religious books is that it is accurate. One way the Bible is accurate is that archaeology frequently proves that the Bible's history is true. (*Proof: Archaeology Proves the Bible | Armstronginstitute.Org*) Archaeologists are constantly making discoveries that the people, places, and events found in the Bible are true. Another way the Bible is accurate is its prophecies. Many of the Bible's prophecies have already come to pass. Out of the roughly 2,500 prophecies in the Bible, roughly 2,000 have already come to pass. (*Bible Prophecies: Fulfilled or Fail? - Cross Examined*) The Bible's ability to predict the future sets it apart from other religious books. The Bible is such a reliable book, it is reasonable to put your faith in its teachings.

Jesus Did Miracles:

“⁴⁸ ‘Unless you people see signs and wonders,’ Jesus told him, ‘you will never believe.’”
(John 4:48 NIV)

One reason to believe in the stories of the Bible, and believe Jesus is the Son of God is that Jesus did miracles. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. (John 3:16) This means Jesus was claiming to be God. That is such a wild claim, but many people believed Him. Why was that? People doubt the miracles of Jesus, but they are trustworthy. After all, why would people believe Jesus was the Son of God if He didn't do wild miracles to back up His claim. It is reasonable to assume that the miracles of Jesus happened, and that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus's First Followers Suffered to Share His Message:

“²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and

naked.²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.” (2 Corinthians 11:23-28 NIV)

This passage was written by a man who claimed to see the resurrected Jesus on his way to kill Christians. (Acts 9:1-6) He went on to share the message of Christianity, and suffer all the horrible things he wrote about to do so. A reasonable question to ask is why this man who was killing Christians made such a wild turn, and suffered all of this for the sake of sharing the message of Christianity? The only reasonable conclusion is that he really had a miraculous encounter with Jesus that convinced him that Jesus is the Son of God, and convinced him that Christianity is true.

Throughout the New Testament, we read about the suffering of Jesus’s early followers. The people who followed Jesus were willing to be beaten, mocked, thrown in jail, stoned, and violently killed for their faith. The only reasonable question is why these people were willing to suffer so much for what they believed. The only reasonable conclusion is they saw Jesus perform miracles, live a sinless life, and prove Himself to be the Son of God.

Jesus Was Either a Liar, a Lunatic, or the Son of God:

C.S. Lewis is famous for saying that Jesus was either the Son of God, a liar, or a lunatic. (Quote by C.S. Lewis: “*I Am Trying Here to Prevent Anyone Saying the R...*,”) Given that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, this is true. He could have been telling the truth, which would make Him the Son of God. He could have been an evil liar claiming to be God. Or He could have been a crazy person who truly believed He was God. Unless you are willing to call Jesus a liar or a lunatic, you have to acknowledge that He is the Son of God. And given Jesus’s perfect character and life of miracles, we can only conclude that Jesus is the Son of God.

What We Must Conclude:

After all of this, we must conclude that Christianity is true. It is the only belief system that makes sense, and it is validated time and again. So, how does a person become a Christian? The Bible’s message is unique, because it teaches that a person is saved through faith apart from works. (Ephesians 2:8-9) The following passages share the message of Christianity:

“²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23 NIV)

“⁹ We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:9-13 NIV)

“¹⁵ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NIV) *** A person believes in Jesus by believing He died for their sins, and rose from the dead. This is biblical faith, and it is what saves a person.

“⁹ If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.’ ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (Romans 10:9-13 NIV) *** This promise teaches that a person converts to Christianity by coming to faith in Jesus, and acting on that faith by confessing Jesus as Lord. Confessing Jesus as Lord means acknowledging He is the Son of God who rules over the universe. When a person calls on the name of the Lord in faith, they are forever saved. (Ephesians 1:13-14) A person then proves the sincerity of their faith by keeping it for the rest of their life. It is normal to have doubts, and God accepts that. (2 Timothy 2:13) But a true believer will keep the faith for their whole life. (1 John 2:19)

“¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-15 NIV) *** When a person calls on the name of the Lord in faith, all their sins are forgiven (past, present, and future). This gives a person the gift of eternal life (Heaven).

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