

Richard Dawkins, Cultural Christianity, and the Evangelistic Opportunity Before Us

Richard Dawkins, one of the most vocal atheists of our time, has recently admitted to being a “cultural Christian.” While this statement may seem paradoxical coming from a man who has dedicated much of his career to dismantling religious belief, it presents a remarkable opportunity for Christians engaged in evangelism. Rather than dismissing Dawkins' words as mere sentimentality or hypocrisy, we should view them as an invitation—an open door to engage with those who, though skeptical of Christian doctrines, still recognize the cultural and moral value Christianity brings to society.

The Meaning of Cultural Christianity

Dawkins' admission highlights something profound: even a staunch atheist recognizes the historical and cultural imprint of Christianity. From art, music, and literature to morality, law, and human rights, Christianity has left an undeniable mark on Western civilization. When Dawkins says he is a “cultural Christian,” he is likely acknowledging the role that Christianity has played in shaping societal values that even he holds dear.

This reality is not unique to Dawkins. Many secular individuals today, whether they realize it or not, are deeply influenced by Christian ethics, even while rejecting the theological framework that undergirds them. Concepts such as human dignity, justice, and compassion are rooted in biblical revelation, yet many modern Westerners assume these values can stand independently of Christianity. Dawkins' comment reminds us that this assumption is fragile. Without a solid foundation, cultural Christianity is like a house built on sand—one storm away from collapse.

The Evangelistic Opportunity

Dawkins' remarks provide Christians with a strategic entry point for evangelism. When someone admits to appreciating Christian culture while rejecting its theological core, they are acknowledging an internal tension. This is where we, as apologists and evangelists, can step in with both clarity and compassion.

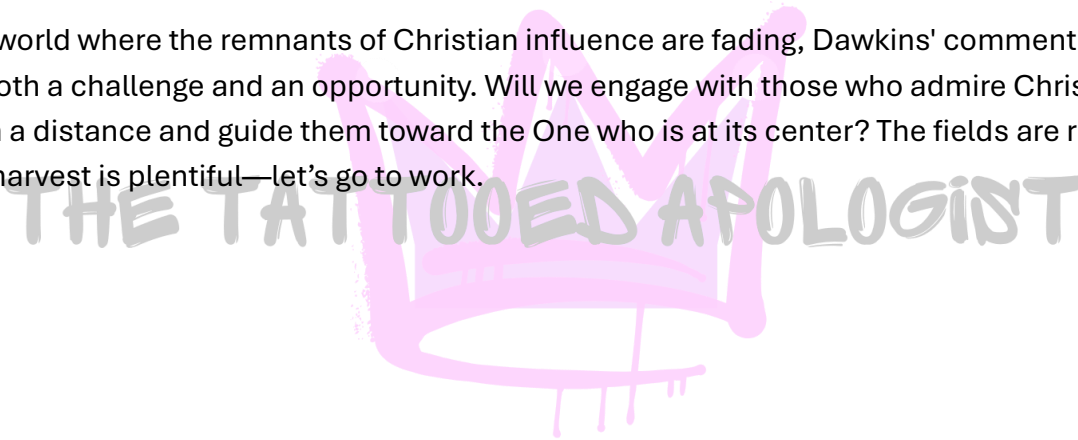
1. **Start with Common Ground** – Rather than immediately confronting someone like Dawkins on his atheism, we can begin by affirming the aspects of Christianity he appreciates. This creates an open dialogue rather than a defensive debate.
 - We can ask: “What is it about Christianity that you find valuable?” and then build from there.

2. **Expose the Inconsistencies** – While Dawkins enjoys the moral and cultural benefits of Christianity, his atheistic worldview lacks the necessary foundation to sustain them. If morality is subjective and God does not exist, then there is no compelling reason to uphold the values he admires. This realization can plant seeds of doubt about the sufficiency of secular humanism.
3. **Introduce the Gospel Gradually** – If someone values Christianity’s cultural impact, they may be open to exploring its deeper truths. By demonstrating how Jesus Christ is the true source of the values they cherish, we invite them to move beyond mere appreciation to genuine faith.

From Cultural Christianity to Authentic Faith

Dawkins' words remind us that many people are lingering at the edges of Christianity, drawn to its beauty but hesitant to embrace its truth claims. Our goal should not be to scoff at their inconsistency but to lovingly point them toward Christ, who alone can make sense of the values they hold dear.

In a world where the remnants of Christian influence are fading, Dawkins' comment serves as both a challenge and an opportunity. Will we engage with those who admire Christianity from a distance and guide them toward the One who is at its center? The fields are ripe and the harvest is plentiful—let’s go to work.





THE TATTOOED APOLOGIST