

QUESTIONS ABOUT FAITH AND REASON

- I. “What about All the HYPOCRITES in the Church?”
 - A. CLARIFY what they mean
 1. May be HISTORICAL misdeeds done in CHRIST’S name
 2. May be CONTEMPORARY examples of SCANDAL in the church
 - B. ADMIT the EXISTENCE of hypocrites among the true Christians
 - C. Point out the FALLACIES of assuming that DISPROVES Christianity
 1. Not ALL Christians are hypocrites
 2. Do not CONFUSE hypocrisy with SIN
 3. Christianity stands on the PERSON of JESUS, not the CONSISTENCY of CHRISTIANS

- II. “Isn’t It Enough to Just Be SINCERE?”
 - A. Admit that God demands SINCERE WORSHIP (1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 10:22; cf. Malachi 1:10)
 - B. It is possible to be SINCERE and still be WRONG (Prov. 16:25)

- III. “Isn’t Christianity Just a Psychological CRUTCH?”
 - A. Identify the underlying PRESUPPOSITIONS of the question

1. Recognizes that LIFE can be DIFFICULT
 2. Recognizes that a CRUTCH is a TOOL that can HELP
- B. Admit that EVERYONE needs a CRUTCH
1. Crutches of HUMAN invention can NUMB or provide DISTRACTION
 2. Only CHRIST provides genuine ASSISTANCE and RELIEF

IV. “I’m a GOOD Person. Won’t God ACCEPT Me?”

- A. Assumes that a place in heaven is EARNED by GOOD WORKS
- B. Explain that a place in heaven is ACQUIRED by SALVATION
1. Involves being RESCUED from a condition you CANNOT remedy (Rom. 3:10, 23)
 2. Rescue is PROVIDED by God’s GRACE through FAITH in Jesus Christ ALONE (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Heb. 11:6; cf. John 14:6)