

Summary Responses for Common Objections

The character of God	1. Suffering and evil in the world	The issue of suffering is a very complex one, friend, because we know of too many situations in which God allows it to 'wake us up' to the deeper issues of life and family. We do know that God is not insensitive about it, because He stepped right into the middle of suffering, at the Cross--for our benefit.
The character of God	2. Illegal human sacrifice of Christ on the Cross	Actually, the Cross is more complex than that--something like a mixture of a voluntary martyr's death and God taking His own judgment onto Himself.
The character of God	3. The OT God as being bloodthirsty, warlike, etc.	Well, I'm not sure how this stereotype of God was created, but these elements were very minimal in Israel's history--especially when compared with her neighbors back then. They WERE ordered to defend themselves, of course, but that wouldn't be out of the normal.
The character of God	4. The glory-hungry God ('worship me or burn')	Well, I'm not sure how this stereotype of God was created, but it would be more accurate to express it as "Let me show you how to find the real and fulfilling life I architected for you to enjoy, or try creating your own life BY YOURSELF in opposition to the way the universe works!"
The character of God	5. The unfair God ('Jesus-way, or No way'...no matter when/where you live)	Actually, the data we have from the Bible leads us to believe otherwise--that not only is God fair, but He is "better than fair", dealing with each person individually, according to how he or she responded to God's fingerprints around them--whatever their situation.
The reliability of the Bible	1. Authorship by uneducated, gullible humans	Actually, the record seems to indicate that the authors of the various books of the bible were from many varied backgrounds, with most of them hard-headed(!), and that all were literate. And all of them had lives that were transformed by an experience of God up close.
The reliability of the Bible	2. Authorship for bad motives	The interesting thing about this, is that the earliest writers ACTUALLY had nothing to gain, but persecution, rejection, loss of material goods, and martyrdom! There was no fame, money, or power to be had at this beginning period at all.

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The reliability of the Bible	3. Transmission/translation errors	Actually, while this MIGHT have been problem a thousand years ago, today, with modern archaeology, we find more and more early manuscripts each year--to verify our accuracy. All the data indicates a surprisingly high level of transmission accuracy.
The reliability of the Bible	4. Pagan myths got merged in	I'm not sure how this idea got started, but the culture of First century Jews was very anti-pagan and anti-myth. It would have been a bigger miracle for the Jewish authors of the NT to include non-Jewish elements than for Jesus to walk on water!
The reliability of the Bible	5. Evolution/Science disproves it	This subject is a bit over my head, but I do know that there are TENS of THOUSANDS of Christians with Ph.d's in science that somehow believe the two are not in significant enough opposition to be a show-stopper.
The character of the church	1. Crusades and religious wars	It's not my position to judge other people, but I certainly do not intend to defend the actions of everyone that calls himself a 'Christian' or hides behind Christ's name to justify evil...They have to answer to God just like you and I do...But I do know that it's bad logic to judge God's good heart on the basis of what people who claim to be His followers do!
The character of the church	2. Hypocrites, racists, weirdo's, and bad public figures	It's not my position to judge other people, but I certainly do not intend to defend the actions of everyone that calls himself a 'Christian' or hides behind Christ's name to justify evil...They have to answer to God just like you and I do...But I do know that it's bad logic to judge God's good heart on the basis of what people who claim to be His followers do!
The character of the church	3. Disunity of the Church (denominations)	I've thought about this some, and I am not sure why this is considered a negative. I have a garden with different kinds of flowers in it, but it doesn't make me see flowers negatively. As for people, we don't even agree with ourselves all the time! And there will always be SOME level of disagreement--which implies that there are ALSO levels of agreement AT THE SAME TIME. Besides, I personally have experienced the UNITY of LOVE with true followers of Jesus Christ from many different backgrounds than my own.

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The nature of a relationship with God	1. I have to give something up	Friend, all you have to give up is a life without the resources, involvement, encouragement, and hope that comes from God! HE did all the hard work for us on the Cross, in the person of Jesus. This is a Gift issue, not an Investment deal (smile).
The nature of a relationship with God	2. I have to start pretending to be good	Actually, it's sort of the opposite--we have to STOP 'pretending' to be good! We have to admit we aren't able to rebuild this relationship with God--and that what Jesus did on the Cross made up for our failures and imperfections...But we DO have to start being more open and honest with God about our lives and our perspectives...
The nature of a relationship with God	3. I have to hang out with hypocrites and self-righteous jerks.	Actually, not EVERYONE in warm, caring churches are that bad! My experience has been that there is always a core group of people who really have seen God change their lives and hearts into some very beautiful things. Men and women who you KNOW you can trust, you can enjoy, and who could be positive influences on our lives, families, and careers. THOSE are the people you need to find, and to 'hang out with'...