

Christianity Fits Your Deepest Needs

Skepticism & Culture

- **Religious Decline in the United States**
 - **Pew Research (October 2019)**
 - **17% Non-Religious in 2009**
 - **26% Non-Religious in 2019**
 - **Gallup (March 2021)**
 - **Less Than 50% of Americans Belong to a Church**
- **“Outside western Europe, where only a minority nowadays are religious, most people around the world... still do believe in a god or gods, especially if they aren’t well educated in science.” (Richard Dawkins)**

Skepticism & Culture

- **Causes of Skepticism**

- **“For myself... the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.” (Aldous Huxley)**

- **Bad Religious Experience**

- **Peer Pressure**

- **Christianity Fits Our Deepest Needs**

Our Need for Meaning

- **"A meaningless universe does not mean we live our lives without purpose. I'm an atheist... but I try to live my life replete with purpose. Be kind; learn and discover as much as you can; share that knowledge; relieve suffering when you can; have tonnes of fun. That's why it's not pointless." (Dr. Adam Rutherford)**
- **The Biblical Worldview**
 - **Made in God's Image**
 - **"²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps." (1 Peter 2:20-21)**

Our Need for Identity

- **Traditional Approach – Outside In**
 - “Don't let them in, don't let them see / Be the good girl you always have to be / Conceal, don't feel, don't let them know”
- **Modern Approach – Inside Out**
 - “Well, now they know / Let it go, let it go / Can't hold it back anymore / Let it go, let it go / Turn away and slam the door / I don't care what they're going to say”
- **“³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.” (1 Corinthians 4:3-4)**

Our Need for Morality

- **Secular Approach**

- **Morality Comes from Naturalistic Evolution**

- **Strong Eating the Weak Inconsistent With Altruism**

- **“If evolutionary biology is a physical theory—as it is generally taken to be—then it cannot account for the appearance of consciousness and of other phenomena that are not physically reducible.” (Thomas Nagel)**

- **Morality Comes from Social Consensus**

- **The Biblical Worldview**

- **Clear Sense of Purpose – Made in God’s Image**

- **Morality Flows from God’s Character**

Our Need for Hope

- **Secular Approach**

- **Hope to Leave the World a Better Place**

- **“What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.” (Ecclesiastes 1:15)**

- **Accept Death as a Natural Part of Life**

- **“Our bodies decompose, falling back into the earth, merging with all the other matter that makes up our planet. In the future, our decomposed bodies might provide nutrients to the trees. Someone might hang a swing from one of those trees or sit beneath the shade of its leafy branches or make a painted horse from its wood.” (Katherine Ozment)**

Our Need for Hope

“¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17