

Is Christianity For Weaklings Who Need Support For Life?

Many agnostics and atheists consider that Christianity is just a “*crutch*” for people who need someone or something to help them cope in day-to-day life.

Karl Marx’s famous statement was that “*religion is the opiate of the masses*” and this is the common view of many still.

Some people use alcohol, some drugs, others Christianity to get themselves through life in a very difficult world.

The fact is that we all do need a crutch to get by in this world, but also to prepare for a better one.

We are all crippled in some sense and deep down, even if we do **not** like to admit it, there is a desire for something to sustain us.

The real issue is, can Christianity really help us in life, or is it something on the same level as drugs or alcohol that people use to escape life?

There are definite psychological needs, fear, disease and death, that might prompt us to invent God so that we feel secure.

However, there are psychological needs and personal experiences that might lead us to deny that God exists.

We need also to consider that the agnostic or atheist may be using their agnosticism and atheism to avoid the responsibilities that Christians proclaim God demands of all human beings.

A Creator God and what is stated in His Word, the Christian Bible, is awesome and can be seen as a threat to any human being.

Isaiah 46:8-10 [NIV] “*Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.*”

This is an awesome claim from One who does have the power to bring what He promises to happen, as the history of ancient Israel proves.

Psalms 139:1-6 [NIV] “*O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in, behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*”

A very frightening statement, even our thoughts are **not** secret to the Creator God.

Galatians 6:7-8 [NIV] “*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*”

A powerful warning from One who knows the end of a situation from the beginning.

2 Corinthians 5:10 [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

There is **no** escaping from this day any more than we can escape the day of our death.

So it is only fair to point out that those who even deny God’s existence need some “*crutch*” in order to live their lives when faced with death, that they all know they **cannot** escape and an unknown time after physical death!

The truth about the Christian faith is **not** based upon any psychological needs for or against the existence of a Creator God.

It is possible, however, this psychological need could be the very starting point for a person who needs something to lean on in day-to-day life.

I remember visiting a person who knew me well in hospital after she had attempted suicide. One comment she made was “*it’s all right for you John, you have your religion.*”

The real issue is the Person of Jesus Christ, Who is the origin of Christianity.

Does humanity need to lean on Jesus Christ, or can we just as easily lean on something else?

Matthew 7:24-27 [NIV] *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

Jesus Christ made the issue of our needing someone to lean on very clear. To build on a rock means to hear with the intent of applying what we hear to our lives, **not** false or superficial approach to the teaching of Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Christian Bible.

James 1:22-27 [NIV] *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

The first thing that God’s Word will do is to give us a true reflection of ourselves, clearly showing as sinners we desperately need Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

Ephesians 2:8-10 [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

We are saved from eternal death [**Romans 6:23**] by God’s grace through the death of Jesus Christ’s substitute death, taking our place on the cross.

But we are saved for good works that will cause others to also come to Jesus Christ as their Saviour. [**Matthew 5:14-16**]

This act of salvation is only found in Jesus Christ. [**Acts 4:12**]

Matthew 11:28-30 [NIV] *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

Not only can Jesus Christ be the rock on which we live our life, we are also fellow workers with Him. The yoke referred to was what joined two working horses or oxen in a job of work. It was placed over the shoulders, the strongest part of the animal, so they could work in harmony. One animal was always the experienced lead animal that the other could follow and learn from.

Christianity is **not** a “*crutch*” but a working and intimate fellowship with the Creator God, a relationship that can last for eternity.

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

A relationship in which we are constantly learning more about our Creator and our Saviour as we work together to bring about a new earth and a new heavens.

Revelation 21:1-7 [NIV] *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.’”*

Christianity is **not** a “*crutch*” to help us struggle through this physical life but a way to prepare for a glorious new future for humanity and their Creator God.