

The Most Common Objections The following will be a discussion of the response to thirty-one of the most common objections. Don't worry about memorizing these responses; instead, read and study them so you'll be prepared. 1 Peter 3:15 says, *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who ask you to give the reason for the hope that you have."*

1. A Christian hurt me.

Jeannie said, "All the Christians I know are rude and are in my face trying to convert me. When I don't respond the way they want, it ruins our friendship. I feel they look down on me." When you hear something like this, you could say, "I'm so sorry that happened. Would you accept my apology for those who did that to you?" Please note that you may have no way of knowing if her perception is valid, but that doesn't matter because to her it's real. So when you get below the surface of the hurt, you may say, "I am sorry if your father was a legalist or some Christian was angry and shoved the gospel in your face. I would like to apologize for them. Jesus would not have wanted that to have happen to you." Have you ever tried to love somebody and made a mess out of it? You had good intentions, but everything went wrong. Do you think there was a possibility in your friend's desire for you to know Jesus that they just went about it the wrong way?" Notice that you always ask questions? Never argue. "You may be right about my friend, but some Christians seem so narrow minded and angry." You know, "you'd say, "You and Jesus are already in agreement on one thing. He doesn't like that behavior either. By the way, what is your understanding of who Jesus is?"

2. Cults are the answer?

Cult members are easy to spot because they deny the deity of Jesus Christ, plus they teach that you have to earn salvation. Still, it can be hard to discern what they believe because they often engage in double talk. That means they assign alternate meanings to Christian terminology to gain your trust. When you meet someone who is involved in a cult, don't try to start a debate. Ask the direct questions, "If what you believe is not true, would you want to know?" Here are lists of Scripture that speak of Christ deity

John 10:30, "I and the Father are one." The literal translation of this means Jesus and the Father are of the same essence.

John 14:7, "If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Rev 1:8, "'I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." We know this is Jesus speaking in Revelation 1:8 for the book closes with:

Rev 22:20, "He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

Col 1:15-16

John 8:58, "Before Abraham was born, I am!" The Jewish people knew Jesus was referring to himself as God when he called himself "I am!" He was referring to the divine name of God found in Exodus 3:14, "God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I am has sent me to you."

John 5:18

Here are a couple of verses that demonstrate how Jesus allowed worship of himself.

John 9:38; John 20:28-29; Hebrew 1:6

You may not be an expert on what a particular cult believes, you can be most effective however, when you share your testimony and gently point to the fact Jesus is Lord. It may not be your gifting within the body to lead a cult member to the Lord, but it is your responsibility to have a clear understanding of your faith.

3. God cannot forgive me.

If you hear this objection turn to Romans 10:13, "for, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," and ask the person to read this aloud.

4. How can a loving God send someone to hell?

Our culture often does not have sensitivity to what sin is because moral absolutes are seldom taught in school. Somehow, we have become convinced God will not send someone to hell. In a practical sense, He won't, because of the message of the cross, the perfect justice of God, we will be responsible for sending ourselves there.

5. How can I know the Bible is true?

Proving whether something is true or not is called apologetics. This word is derived from the Greek word “apologia,” which means “to defend.” Christianity is *not* a blind faith. It is the *only* religion that can prove itself, and a main source of that proof is the Bible. Although it is becoming less common, there are still people who tell others that they follow Christianity “because it feels right” (or use wording like that). This is unfortunate, since there is a lot of evidence supporting Christianity. This would be a question that with time given to an in-depth study would put you in a position to formulate a clear apologetic discussion, until then, you could simply ask, “What would make you question it?” Continue to use the “Why Principle” and you may find that it is more about another issue.

6. How do I know I have enough faith?

When someone tells you they are afraid they don’t have enough faith to receive Christ as their Savior, simply smile and say, “If you have enough faith to ask Christ to come into your heart, you have enough faith to receive him into your heart. Imagine Moses, as he led his people out of Egypt, he met a pretty big roadblock, the Red Sea. As Pharaoh’s army closed in on Moses and the tribe of Israel, God directed him to cross the sea. Moses stood on the shore, wondering if he had enough faith. It wasn’t until he put his foot in the water that the sea parted. God will honor your first step. If you really want to know Jesus as Lord, take that first step and ask him into your heart.

7. I can’t live the Christian Lifestyle

With this you should respond with, “I am so glad you understand a change is required. But unlike the past, you are not going to have to change alone. The Bible says in Philippians 4:13, *“I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.”* God wants your “want to,” not your ability. He wants your desire. Are you desiring now to follow Jesus Christ as your Lord?”

8. I don’t believe in God.

This objection usually comes up only at the beginning of the “Share Jesus Presentation.” When it does, ask, “May I show you the Scriptures that changed my life?” Yet sometimes this question will surface at the end of the presentation. When it does, say, “If you become convinced that God existed, would you be willing to give your life to him?” If the person answers yes, ask, “Would you be willing to ask a nonexistent God to help you in your unbelief,” then pray with them, “God, if you are real, help me to believe.” You tell them to see what happens in the next week or month. Set a date to meet again in a few weeks, while you are waiting for the meeting, pray for truth to be revealed in their life.

9. I don’t believe the Resurrection took place

When you find someone who holds this belief, you could say, “I’m glad this is your only stumbling block, because one thing God did for us is to provide overwhelming evidence of the Resurrection. In fact, one of the leading legal minds of the country, Dr. Simon Greenleaf, an outstanding professor of law at Harvard University, wrote a volume in which he examined the legal value of the apostles’ testimony to the resurrection of Christ. Greenleaf concluded that the resurrection of Christ was one of the best supporting events in history, according to the law of legal evidence administered in courts of Justice.” You can share Jeremiah 29:13, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Pray with them, “Lord Jesus, if the Resurrection took place, help me in my unbelief.”

10. I want to think about it.

If you understood the Scriptures that you read aloud, if you were to die tonight, where would you go in your present condition? If you can live with that, then you have time to think about it.

11. I’m a good person

When someone says, “I’m a good person,” politely as possible ask, “By whose standards?” They may respond, “What do you mean?” Here you can test their goodness in relationship to the “Ten Commandments” because of the holiness of God, it is impossible to measure up to his standards of perfections. Since God is the judge and the jury, it is his approval we have to meet. In fact, James 2:10 says, “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” I want you to know that I, like you, have been guilty as well. The difference is I found forgiveness through Jesus. And that’s the forgiveness I am asking you if you want.”

12. I'm God

Today, many people share the belief that they are God, which comes from Eastern religions. You could respond with, "I could use a new car. Could you create one for me? Surely an all-powerful God such as you could do this." Then you could recommend they read the following Scriptures aloud. After each is read, ask, "What does this say to you?" Exodus 20:3 says, "You shall have no other gods before me," (see also: Romans 1:25, Colossians 1:13-17). You will want to point out that these Scripture shows that God is God alone. He is not all things; he is the Creator who holds all things together. Now, "I am not God, but he is in me. Would you like God to be in you?"

13. I'm having too much fun?

What are you going to say to the person who says this? Again, go back to the "Why Principle." You are going to say, "Why?" The response will most likely be something like, "I like to party." When you get this response, you can reply with "In other words, you are into the party scene, sex, drugs, and rock and roll?" The person will usually blush, or respond with a loud "yes" or some variation of the level of partying they do. Then say, "I have one last question. Let's imagine you reject Jesus Christ today, but this weekend you become a part of the interstate highway. Where does the Bible say you will go?" (*Notice that you always use scripture. The Bible is your authority, whether they believe it or not.*) The usually whisper, "I will go to hell." Then say, with all the love you can, "Have a nice day and drive carefully." These people usually drive carefully for the next forty-eight hours. We say this not to only remind them of their mortality; we say this hoping they will let the message of God's love and truth penetrate their heads and hearts. We are not trying to be judgmental, but to prepare them, in the next few moments, day, weeks, or years, to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

14. I'm not a sinner

Sometimes when you are sharing the "Share Jesus Scriptures" and you turn to Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned...", your friend may respond by saying something like: Friend: I haven't committed sins. I've never murdered, stolen, or done other dramatic things that are obviously sin. You: (*Don't argue or try to explain sin. Instead, turn to Matthew 22:37*) Read this aloud. Friend: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." You: Have you ever love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Friend: No. You: That's what sin is.

15. I'm not good enough

This is objection is a lot like "God cannot forgive me." Yet our response is different. When you get this response you simple say, "Why". After listening, respond with, "That's one thing we have in common, we are not good enough. This is a problem. There is only two ways to get to heaven: either we have to be perfect, never committing a sin in word, deed, or thought, or we have to become born again." Take them to Ephesians 2:8-9 which says, "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." What does this say to you? Now take them back to Romans 10:13, ""for, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved,"" and ask the person to read this aloud. Ask, "Does that include you?" Then let the powers of Scripture speak.

16. I'm not ready

Here again your first response should be "Why?" More than likely, their reason will sound silly and illogical, even to them. In this case say, "Are you really willing to let that stand between you and God?" This may be all you need to say to take care of their objection. If they indicate they are now ready to invite Christ into their life, and then lead them in prayer. There again, their objection may not be so easy to get rid of. For example, in response to your, "Why not?" your friend may say something like, "I am not ready because this information is so new to me. This is a whole new way of thinking and I want to count the cost." If you get this response, stop the presentation. Be prepared to release your friend in God's sovereignty and control. Say something like, "I enjoyed our time, and I will be praying for you. May I talk with again in a few days or weeks?" In this way you have not put undue pressure on them, and you may gain permission to speak with them in the future. You do not want to harvest a false decision for Christ. As you part, do not go away feeling like a failure. You may have planted the seed that by God's grace will sprout at a later time. In the meantime, keep your friend in your prayers and look for other opportunities to share with them again. Remember, you can't fail because you were being obedient to Christ.

17. I'm not sure I'm saved.

Sometimes you may meet someone who has genuinely asked Christ into their heart but feel they are not saved. You could proceed by pointing to their watch and say, "That's a very nice watch. If you lost it, you'd miss it when you wanted to see the time, but if you've never owned a watch, you wouldn't worry about looking at it, nor would you worry about losing it." "Don't you find it interesting that you are worried that you are not saved?" You can't worry about losing something you don't have. I bet before you asked Christ into your life, you didn't go around worrying that Christ was not in your heart. It is a wonderful confirmation to me that you might be saved because you are concerned." Let's look at Romans 8:38-39, (*Friend reading aloud*) "*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" "What does this say to you?" Now turn to Ephesians 1:13-14 and have them read aloud, "*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*" "I just want you to know, my friend, the moment you invited Christ into your life, you were saved. God guarantees that one day you will be with him in heaven." "The fears you have are also experienced by most Christians. But you must move past these fears so you can grow in your faith. You may find it helps to strengthen your faith by reading your Bible, praying, and spending time with other believers. Let me help you get started. May I pick you up for church next Sunday?"

18. I've always believed in God.

When you get this a response could be, "The devil believes in God, and in fact, he has even seen God. James 2:19 says, "*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*" "How are you any different? Would you like to receive Jesus as your Savior?"

19. I've done too many bad things. See "I'm not good enough," response 15.

20. I've tried it and it didn't work out.

The first thing you want to affirm is whether the person is saved or unsaved. Ask, "Tried what?" After all, you don't know what they tried. They usually say something like, "I tried that prayer once, and you know the one where you invite Christ into your life. Nothing happened." You look them in the eye and say, "Apparently that is very true. Let me ask a question. Did you mean the prayer when you said it?" Sixty percent of the time, people say, "Well, I think so," yet they seem unsure. Then ask, "Tell me about the moment you gave your life to Christ." You may be surprised at how ridiculous their "testimonies" may seem." If that testimony bears witness to what Scripture teaches, it's not, say, "Can you look into the face of God and tell him you are born again?" If they say no, say, "Let's take a minute and review the Scriptures. Read them aloud, and then tell me what they mean." But if they say yes, ask permission to review the seven "Share Scriptures" than ask them the five "Commitment Questions" to help them have a better understanding of the gospel.

21. My beliefs are private

The first question is "Why" The reason we ask is to find out what is below the surface. Then we can deal with whatever that objection is.

22. My friends will think I am crazy if I accept Jesus.

Again you apply the "Why Principle": "Why will your friends think you are crazy?" "They like to party and have fun. If I suddenly stop, they will think I've gone nuts. "Yes," you say, "but let me ask you, if they are really your friends, won't they be happy and thrilled that the God of the universe lives inside of you and all your sins are forgiven? "After all, when they see you changed, they may want what you have."

23. The argument never stops.

This is the person who argues and argues and argues. When you run into somebody like this, your first reaction is to pray, "Lord they are just like I use to be. Help me love them, Lord, until they understand the gospel." Usually this type is filled with hostility, so purposely avoid everything they want to argue about. Instead, you could ask, "Why are you so angry? Why does the presentation of the gospel make you so hostile?" Then we ask the key question: "If for some reason you found out everything I have said about the gospel and about Jesus is true, what would you do about it?" If they tell you they will still not believe, ask, "Why?" This may get you to the real objection. But if they answer they are not ready or refuse to believe, remember, it's OK to walk away from the presentation. But that does not mean you stop loving and praying for them. You just watch for ways to speak to them someday in the future.

24. The church only wants my money.

You respond, "Has the church ever asked you for money?" It's true that most churches take an offering. But it is usually the members who are expected to give, not the visitors. "You see, God doesn't want to take your money. When you become a believer, something happens to your heart. You give because you want to. If you don't give in joy, you shouldn't give at all. "The church doesn't want to take your money; the church wants you to surrender your life to Jesus. Are you willing to do that?"

25. There are many paths to God

When you get this objection, you nod, "You are correct; all roads lead to God. But here's the problem: what are you going to say when you get there? For God is either going to meet you as your Savior or as your judge, for Philippians 2:10-11 says, *"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

26. There are many religions in the world

Some people will claim that because there are so many religions in the world, and I don't know how a person can know the right one. I've discovered that all of the religions in the world can be divided into two groups. Imagine, every religion other than Christianity is in my left hand – Mormonism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, whatever "ism" – and Christianity is in my right hand. Everyone in my left hand make two distinctive claims: (a) Jesus is not God, or he is not the only God. He may be a great prophet, teacher, or good man, but not the Messiah; and (b) if you do enough *good works*, such as good deeds, rid the world of infidels, or follows a special diet, you can receive some form of salvation. Two opposite claims cannot possibly be true. I would be willing to admit, if the Christianity in my right hand is true, that your faith is in vain? Let's examine the evidence so we can find out which one of us is possible in error. Christianity claims that Jesus is God, that God has come to us in Jesus who lived, died on the cross, and rose from the grave that we might have eternal life. Christianity claims, *"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 anyone can boast"* (Eph. 2:8-9). Now ask, "Can both of these teachings be true? All of us have to make a decision to place our trust in one view or the other." This turns a complicated argument into a simple answer.

27. There are too many hypocrites in the church.

To this objection you first say, "You are absolutely correct. There are hypocrites in every church. I'm so glad you are concerned about that, because when you join the perfect church, it won't be perfect any longer." "Jesus said not to follow hypocrites but to follow him. I think it is exciting that you know the difference between a hypocrite and a genuine person. It will be fun to see you grow in your faith." Then add, "Trust me, if you accept Christ as your Savior and I see you begin to act like a hypocrite, I will remind you of this conversation. Are you ready to pray?"

28. What about those who never hear the gospel?

Friend: What about those who never get a chance to hear the gospel?" You: That's not you, is it? Friend: No. You: Perhaps the question is what does the Bible say will happen to those who have heard and have not responded? Friend: They will go to hell. You: You've heard the gospel. Will you respond?

29. Why does God let bad things happen?

This objection can appear to be difficult to deal with, but you must trust the Holy Spirit. This person may be angry with God for many reasons, sexually abused by a father, stepfather, the untimely loss of a loved one, or just disillusion with the state of the world. What kind of God would let these things continue without intervention? Let's consider the example of Christ when he was confronted by the Pharisees with a difficult question. The Pharisees said in John 8:4-5, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such a woman. Now what do you say?" If Jesus said yes to stoning, he was condoning murder, and if he said no, he would break the Jewish law. These men thought they had trapped him at last. We can learn much from Christ's response. First, he allowed the Pharisees to talk. When they were finished, he turned the tables on them by asking them a question, John 8:7 he said, "*If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.*" In essence, Jesus asked, "What about you? Are you sinless?" So, to that person you would respond, "who taught you to tell your first lie?" The response would be more than likely "no one had to teach them to lie." "Remember the story of the garden of Adam and Eve? Before they disobeyed God, the garden was perfect. No one was molesting anyone. There was no evil because there was no sin. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin entered the world and into us. Now we live in a fallen world, and we are fallen in the world. That is why no one had to teach you to lie. It's built into all of our natures to be self-serving and selfish. It's part of the Adamic curse. But this does not answer the toughest question. Why didn't God stop these bad things from happening? I can answer the question for you if you give me permission. But you won't like it. "My answer is I don't know, but I do know this, you can walk through the rest of your life alone in your pain or you can choose to hold onto a nail-scarred hand.

30. You can't possibly know what truth is.

It is a terrible tragedy that our culture has taught us to believe there are no absolutes, no right or wrong, and no truth. We can handle this objection in several ways. Sometimes, we can merely ask, "Why?" and listen to someone flounder, trying to respond. Or you can try this. Ask to borrow their watch. Once you have it, put it in your pocket or purse. Next, talk about anything except the fact that you have their watch in your pocket or purse. In a while, they'll get a little nervous and ask, "May I have my watch back?" "No, my truth is taking watches from people who don't believe in truth." Finally, you reach into your pocket or purse and pull out the watch and hand it back. "You just told me that there are no rights or wrongs. How can it be wrong if I steal your watch?" When they can't answer you say, "See, you cannot hide behind that statement. May I show you some verses of scripture that have a major impact on my life?"

31. You must think you're better than me.

First of all, I am not better than anyone else; I am simply better off. Like everyone, I had broken God's commandments and laws and was condemned to hell. But by his grace and unfailing love, God sent someone into my life to tell me about Jesus. That made me realize how dirty I was in the presence of a holy God. I asked God to forgive me, and he did. It doesn't make me better than you; it makes me forgiven. Now I am giving you the same opportunity someone gave me.

Review let's review the way to handle an objection: **You:** Are you ready to invite Jesus Christ into your life? **Friend:** No. **You:** Why? **Friend:** I'm not ready **You:** Why? The response your friend gives will better equip you to answer objections.