



The “Prince of Preachers,” Charles Spurgeon, said,
“Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that.”

How to answer common responses to the gospel. Try to use the power of a suitable Bible story that addresses the wrong attitude. Christianity is the greatest story in the world – go tell it.

1. I’m Ok I have my own church/religion.

Yes, all men are religious. But have you found peace with God.

The Bible is the foundation of truth, not a man made institution.

One example is: **Nicodemus** – he was a religious Jew (**John 3:2**). He realized that the Lord Jesus was the Saviour He needed, not tradition and religion without God in his life.

He needed to be born again. He needed a new heart, and received it.

Christianity is not just religion; it is a relationship. Christ came into the world to save sinners.

2. I’ve given up on all organized religion.

This is the flip side of the argument above. So, commend the person for seeing through empty tradition and ceremonies of religion that are powerless.

Talk about the need for a new heart, and true satisfaction.

Only Christ can turn men away from the grip of sin within our hearts. Tell the story of **the two men who stood in the temple to pray**. One was a Pharisee the other was publican [tax collector]. One confessed that he was a sinner the other thanked God he was good enough. **Luke 18:10-14**

3. I no longer believe in the Bible or any religion.

Shock the person with the statistic that the Bible is still the best-selling book in the world.

State the fact that wherever you find people who are serious for God and willing to put God first they are always Bible readers. So, the Bible is very powerful.

Tell of **the experiment of Gilbert West and Lord Lyttleton – intellectuals of their day, is a powerful witness**. West undertook to write a treatise on the Resurrection proving it to be a fabrication.

Lyttleton vowed to produce a treatise demonstrating that Paul was not miraculously converted on the Damascus Road. Both men became Christians!

4. I think I’m good enough.

Not even the devil thinks that.

Ask, Does that mean that you have never sinned - never broken one of God’s commandments.

Ask, Does that mean that God didn’t need to send His Son to die for people – sinners.

Ask, Do you think that you have no sins for which you need forgiveness.

If the answer is yes, pursue the line of asking, How will you be forgiven? On what basis.

Keep going back to the cross-work of Christ as being God’s provision to pardon sinners.

Tell the story of Christ’s death and sacrifice over and over.

Tell the person, that this pardon is offered to you.

5. There is no way of knowing what is right and what is wrong.

We have a conscience that accuses, or excuses. **Rom. 2:15**

That proves we are moral beings made in the image of God.

Just as there are physical laws which if broken lead to harm – e.g. gravity – so there are moral laws which if broken will disturb our conscience and lead to social harm, addictions, vice, hatred, murder etc. Because God is the Creator of all things He is the ultimate benchmark of what is good. What God approves is good and what God forbids is evil.

What is sin? It is from Greek word HAMARTIA – TO MISS THE MARK. **1 John 3:4**

What law? – the 10 commandments. These reflect the character of God, who is jealous of His own name, created us to live in obedience to His pattern of love for God and for our fellow men. God sets the standard and God calls all of men to meet that standard. “Be ye holy for I am holy.” **1 Peter 1:16.**

To be holy, we need to fear God and keep his commandments. **Ecclesiastes 12 13-14.**

Only one person has ever lived up to God’s perfect standard – that is the Lord Jesus, God’s Son.

Sin came into the world through Adam. – Tell the story of the forbidden fruit and Adam’s disobedience. Then talk about what that first sin did to Adam. It turned him into a fugitive.

The Saviour from sin is Christ the second Adam.

Does God care about right and wrong? If not, why did God punish His own Son?

6. Religion is not for me.

Ask: Do you need oxygen? Do you need food for your body? Do you need life for your soul?

The Lord Jesus taught that you do have a soul. “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” **Mark 8:36**

Ask: Do you realize that you are going to die?

It is appointed unto men once to die and then the judgment. **Heb 9:27**

If the message of life for souls is religion, then all men and women need religion. The good news of the gospel is that God sent us a Saviour to lead souls to heaven.

7. God is love, therefore, He will never condemn me, so there’s nothing to worry about.

Yes, God is love but that means that He also loves His own name with a holy jealousy, and will guard it at all costs. Those who rebel against Him, despising His goodness, will not enjoy His love.

It is His jealousy for His own glory that moves God to righteous indignation. He must do right to honour His name.

God has a history of judging sin.

- God spared not the angels that sinned. **2 Peter 2:4**
- God spared not Noah’s old world, by sending a flood. **2 Peter 2:5**
- God spared not His own Son. **Romans 8:32**

Tell the stories of these events. Preach it! Warn!

Use the opportunity to show that, because God is love, He chose to punish His Son to save sinners from their sin. He is moved in grace to save sinners, by offering up His own Son. **Romans 8:32**

This is the good news of the gospel. God planned a way to save guilty sinners by punishing His Son in their place, as their substitute. The story of substitutionary atonement can be told from many historic accounts: The Passover lamb, the offering brought to the priest in Leviticus, Isaiah 53, John the Baptist giving Jesus the title, “The Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world”. **John 1:29.**

To Do: Build a cheat sheet of each of these verses used in this study. Place them in your Bible for ref. Better still, memorize them with their Scripture references to have them at the ready as opportunity arises to evangelize. That’s only 12 texts to make you an evangelist!

