

E. RESPONDING TO SOME COMMON OBJECTIONS

A quick sketch of suggested responses to questions often asked, taken from several presentations given at Cornell University:

1. If God exists, why are there so many atheists?

Alternate Q: "If God doesn't exist, why so many theists?"
Maybe theists are engaged in wishful thinking?

Not easy to see why Xns would invent God who:

- needs nothing, so they can't earn His favor
- sees most righteous as deserving punishment
- holds those who know Him better to higher std.
- will forgive worst who repent, but condemn most righteous who depend on own righteousness

More likely atheists are the wishful thinkers!

Easy to see they wouldn't want a God who:

- will judge their actions and thoughts
- restricts the behavior, condemns their sins

In fact, there are not many atheists:

Gallup poll in 1982 suggests less than 9% in US

Reasons for atheism acc to Bible

- the silence of God (Ps 50)
- the sinfulness of humans (Rom 1-2)

Give evidences for God of Bible

2. Why does God permit evil and suffering?

How can God be (1) all-powerful, (2) perfectly good and (3) allow evil and/or suffering?

- If all-powerful, He can stop e & s
- If perfectly good, He would stop e & s

Another alternative:

Perhaps God has a perfectly good reason to permit e & s
What might this reason be?

- analogy of novelist
- analogy of parent

3. Don't the Bible and science contradict?

Certainly some interpretations of B & s conflict

- belief that natural phenomena will account for all of reality conflicts with Bible
- belief that Bible teaches earth & universe only a few thousand years old conflicts w/ scientific evidence for billions of years
- these beliefs not as solid as their proponents think