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Faith Bible Church
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (27)
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #18
(DDR #646)

Objection #18: “Christianity simply doesn’t work. It doesn’t produce what it promises. Deep down, you know what I’m saying is true.”

Michael Brown’s short response:

Actually, the reverse is true. To speak personally, I have been overflowing with almost incredible blessing since I found new life through Jesus, and I can give you innumerable proofs that he is the true Messiah, that he is alive today, and that he is at work in the earth and in my life. Could it be *your* tradition that cannot produce intimacy with God and the assurance that your sins are forgiven? Could it be that deep down you know what I’m saying is true? In fact, I would like to ask you a question: What is the clear evidence of the presence of the living God in *your* life?¹

Given the despicable witness of the professing church—especially TV “Christianity”—it is not hard to see why an outsider would believe that Christianity does not work. *If you were on the outside*: Would you believe in Christianity if your only view of Christianity was based on either the Roman Catholic Church or TV “Churchianity”? Furthermore, if you were aware that atheists have less divorces than Christians would you believe that Christianity worked? Furthermore, if you knew that the new generation of Christian young people are theologically illiterate and see God only in moralistic (most people and all animals are good), therapeutic (God is here to help me feel better about myself, God is here for narcissistic enablement), and deistic (God does not actively dwell in me and does not really demand much of my life), could you even

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1ST ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 59-65. In this work, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response, which is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response, after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer response (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

respect Christianity? Furthermore, would you really believe that Christianity really works if you knew that—at least in many cases—the population in mental institutions are predominantly Christian? Furthermore, would you believe in Christianity when so many Christians do not even believe in it as they live—at least practically—totally disconnected to the grand Christian truths? Many young people can tell you about *Will and Grace* but hardly anything about God’s marvelous plan of *grace*. Young Christians are hooked into reality TV, while older Christians are “members” of the largest “church” in America: the church of Oprah Winfrey. Even young kids in Christian schools, although they can cite scores of Bible passages, are totally unable to see the world through those passages because of a doctrineless worldview. Furthermore, if doctrine and the local Christian church are so important, then why do so many Christians not value them enough to attend the local church and support fellow believers and the teaching of the Word? From the lunacy, heresy, and scandals of TV “evangelism” to Christians filling mental institutions (mostly charismatics) to cosmic Christians who do not value Christian doctrine enough to learn and live it, to the lack of interest in doctrinal churches, the church is in a real mess—just like God predicted in 2 Tim. 3:1-5. The state of Christianity today is enough to cause any serious believer to be a bit embarrassed when identified with modern “Christianity.”

One of the most powerful ways to reach a non-believing Jew is to demonstrate the different life in God—to demonstrate authentic Christianity—a life that is empowered by God the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-17, 22-23) with a mind that has been transformed by Christian doctrine (Rom. 12:1-2). Only through a *real* spiritual life can a believer actually be salt and light to the world (Matt. 5:13-14). Only through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and Truth can the believer enjoy and manifest a truly changed life by Jesus Christ. Only through walking by the Spirit, can the believer have a life that is marked by forgiveness, grace, life, joy, vitality, and love for Bible

doctrine. Only through fellowship with God can a believer have a real intimate relationship with God. Only through the Word of God, like Faith-Rest, can the believer not only not live in fear but exercise self-control (Gal. 5:23)—though he lives in fearful times (cf. impending economic collapse, government encroachment, entitlement mentality, et al.) as America continues to suffer under the heavy hand of divine discipline.

Most Jews, at least in America, who come to believe in Christ as their personal savior do so through the ministry of Gentile Christians. The two strongest things we have are doctrine and a testimony (possible only under filling of the Holy Spirit). Skeptical Jews are often only impressed by how the Lord changed a person's life! What's real! One way to really bring out the uniqueness of Christianity is to focus on the relationship that only Christianity offers. The cults simply don't have it. If you asked a Jehovah Witness (JW) about how they became a JW, they would likely talk about how they always felt the church was in error, and then these people came and witnessed to them, and then how they went to the Kingdom Hall, where they "learned so much" about the Bible. However, if you said, "Now tell me about your relationship with God," you would likely get a blank stare followed by a description of things that they *do*—i.e. how they witness to others, how they avoid this or that. What you would not get is anything about the new life and the transformation. Nothing about intimacy with God! Nothing about a *personal* walk with God! You can see the difference between a stiff religion and a real close walk with the Lord. Christianity is a relationship. Just like a marriage is a relationship. How is your relationship with your spouse? Not what you do or he/she does! No! The relationship! Tell me about the *relationship, the intimacy . . . the walk together through the various stages of life*—not what you do or she/he does, or even what you *have done*. As wonderful as marriage is, how much more is it to have an ongoing growing relationship with the God of the Universe who alone

really understands you and is able to transform your life—and give you greater capacity to love others, like your honey more and more with each passing year.

If you find yourself before a Jew who is very proud of contemporary Judaism and proceeds to “poo-poo” Christianity because of its “apparent” ineffectiveness, you could point out just how effete Judaism is as evidenced by the behavior of Jews. You could point out that there is a higher percentage of Jewish atheists than Gentile atheists (6% for Gentile Americans, 8% of Jewish Americans). Some of the most prolific atheists are Jews, e.g. Samuel Harris and Christopher Hitchens. Furthermore, there is also a disproportionate amount of Jews in cults and false religions like Buddhism (to such an extent that we have the term Jubu for Jewish Buddhists). The famous Alan Ginsberg was the first well known Jew who converted to Buddhism. At the height of the Hare Krishna in the 1960s in New York City, 75% of the world leadership of the Hare Krishna in the world was Jewish. Today it is about 25-35%. The Moonies with Sung Young Moon is in decline in pop culture today, but when stats were available about 30% of Moonies were Jews. These stats are off the charts considering that there is only one Jew for every five hundred people worldwide. Consider how staggering these numbers are given the very low percentage of Jews in the general population.

Note our enemy versus our Savior and what each offers—every single day:

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy [spiritual life and the things of God]; I came that they might have life, and might have *it* abundantly [the supergrace life].

Pastor Don