



Excuses That Last A Lifetime*

(* They're only good until this life is over, then comes judgment day!)

Jesus has heard them all: good sounding ones and some pretty lame ones, too (like these three guys from Luke 14:16-24...see also Luke 9:57-62) Most people are "right" in their own eyes but God knows all hearts, motives, and secrets. That's why excuses will not work when this life is over!! Truth is, many people just love darkness rather than light [read John 3:14-21] But not everyone!! There are those who are really seeking answers. You need to assume the best about everyone and the objections they may raise (because, unlike Jesus, you don't know what's in every heart - John 2:25). I've divided many of the common arguments (or "excuses") that people raise into four groups - some are sincere, some are not.

Excuses of Denial: Almost always insincere, usually just "intellectual muscle-flexing" intended to throw you a "curve ball" or to frustrate you (the kind of frivolous things that Paul warned Timothy and Titus about - 1Tim 1:4 & 6:4-5 ; 2Tim 2:23 & Titus 3:8) .

- **"How do we know we even exist?"** A philosopher once said, "I think – therefore I am." Poke them with your finger and ask, "Did you feel that? I did, too! That answers that question!!"
- **"How do you know God exists?"** How do they know He doesn't? For someone to say that they 'know' God doesn't exist they would have to be a 'god' themselves, knowing all that could be known in the whole universe. Remember Psa 19:1-3 & Rom 1:20. One has to work hard not to believe God is there. Most folks are really saying, "If He's out there, He doesn't care (especially not about me.)" A common complaint is, "If there is a God then why does he let so many children suffer in this world?" One reply is to ask them, "If you were God what would you do about it?" The only solution to ending all suffering, all crime, all bad behavior and its consequences, is to take away all 'choice'. It was risky to give mankind a free will. We blew it...not God!!
- **"All religion is just an opiate of the masses"** [a quote by Karl Marx, father of communism] The New Age idea is that people make up a religion to suit their fancy, to satisfy their superstitions or to remedy their needs. If so, wouldn't Christianity have been more appealing if it let everybody do anything they wanted to? Rather than tell me what's wrong with me, why doesn't the Bible just tell me that everything is right about me, and that everybody gets to have a happy life hereafter? Christianity is unique among all the world's religions in that it alone defines man's problem perfectly and delivers the perfect solution for it – the cross of Jesus Christ. Our faith is more than religion...it is a relationship with the Almighty (the difference between being just 'neighbors' and being God's 'family'.) It satisfies us because it fills the God-sized void in us. We feel 'good' because Jesus makes us 'good'.

Excuses of Delusion: Sometimes sincere, but many times not. Patiently work through them!

- **"All religions lead to the same place."** Such a person obviously doesn't know much about major religions such as Hinduism with its thousands of Gods and Animism where even rocks and other inanimate objects have spirits. Some 'truth' can be found in all world religions (after all, we do have a common ancestry in Adam.) It is not whatever 'truth' other religions may have but their conclusions about that truth that is wrong. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." (Jn14:6) {illustration: Blind men and the elephant}
- **"It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere"** What that really means is, 'There is no god so just make up anything you want'. Remember: we studied that faith is only as valid as the object in which it is placed? Believing something doesn't make it true!
- **"There are no absolutes"** -or- **"That's your truth, I have mine"** (very similar to above) Ask, "What color are my eyes? If I were to ask every person on the earth the same question will they give me the same answer? Then that must absolutely be the color of my eyes!"
- **"I don't believe in God, I believe in evolution."** Ask them, "Did you know that Darwin believed in God? That his studies were intended to show how God 'did it'?" Even most evolutionists are still stuck needing a 'god' (whom they normally refer to as 'Mother Nature' or 'Mother Earth'.) Ask, "So you believe that nothing left alone long enough will become something?" Did you know that the chances of evolution happening, based on all of the genetic changes and spontaneous mutations that would have been necessary, is at least a trillion-to-1? But the odds that "*In the beginning God created*" are only 2-to-1 (either He did or He didn't) By the way, Jesus (who lived two thousand years ago) has a "family tree" that goes straight back to Adam (the first man) Just check out his genealogy in Matthew 1 & Luke 3 (proof the human race is only 6,000 years old!!)