

The first major question everyone must confront is whether to believe in God or not. C.S. Lewis explains that Christians have a more “liberal view” than atheists about the existence of God.

The first big division of humanity is into the majority, who believe in some kind of God or gods, and the minority, who do not believe in any supernatural or spiritual being or beings. Christians are in agreement with the majority of humanity on the fundamental question of whether or not a higher power exists. Atheism insists on a denial of any truth in all other religions of the world, past and present. Christianity acknowledges at least some truth in all these other religions, and they can therefore agree at least on the existence of a higher power at work in the world.

Besides Atheism, Lewis explains how liberal Christianity, or “Christianity and water,” is not sufficient. *His chief objection is that Christian liberalism is too simple. He says, “It is no good asking for a simple religion. After all, real things are not simple.”*

Besides Christianity, Lewis tells us that the only other religious system that directly confronts the problem of the existence of evil and of a good God is Dualism.

Dualism teaches that there are two equal and independent powers, one good and one evil. The fatal flaw with this belief is that it rests on the acceptance of an eternal power who likes badness for its own sake. In reality, we have no examples of anyone liking badness just because it is bad. Whereas Christianity teaches only one eternal power, Who is good and created all things good, and that evil exists only in the rejection of good.

A good, all-powerful God tolerates evil in His creation because he gave us free will.

Without the free-will to choose to love God and do right, there would be no value in it. God made creatures that are capable of doing wrong because there is no such thing as a free creature that can't do wrong.

God took three preliminary steps to rescue us from the evil of the wrong choices made by Lucifer and our first parents.

First, he gave us a conscience. Second, he sent the human race what Lewis calls "good dreams." Third, he chose one particular people and spent several centuries hammering into their heads the sort of God he is.

Christ is the "shocking solution" because he was a man who claimed to be God. We know he was not claiming to be merely a part of the god of the Pantheist because he was Jewish. We are left with three choices, knowing what we know about the man Jesus.

A man who claims to be God must be a liar, a lunatic, or truly God. Therefore, claiming he was merely a great human teacher is impossible. We would not consider a liar or a lunatic a great person or good teacher.

Christians believe that Christ came to earth to suffer and be killed. Why would he do this?

Christ suffered and died to pay our debt for our sins. Someone with some assets can pay a debt for the person who has no ability to pay himself. The only way out of the hole our sin puts us in is to repent. To repent is to lay down your arms, surrender, say you are sorry, realizing you're on the wrong track, and then get ready start again.

The problem is that it takes a good person to repent and it's the bad person who needs to repent.

Though we can repent for our offences, only a perfectly good person could perfectly repent, and none of us is perfect. On the other hand, a perfectly good person would not need it. God is perfectly good. Man has the need. God, therefore became man in order that He could pay man's debt for him.