

Five Poor Apologetics

Why are you a Christian?

1 Peter 13:16

¹³ And who will harm you if you are deeply committed to what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear or be disturbed, ¹⁵ but honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. **Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you**

¹⁶ **However, do this with gentleness and respect**, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame.

The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version. (2009). (1 Pe 3:13–16). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

Five Poor Apologetics

- I know being a Christian is right.
- I was born a Christian.
- Believing in Jesus is “easier” than following a works based religion.
- I follow Pascal’s Wager.
- Being a Christian doesn’t hurt anyone else.

1. I know being a Christian is right.

- Without supporting evidence this is an opinion not a reason.
- This statement can easily be taken as smug, condescending, and arrogant.
- Since Christianity excludes all other religions you must be prepared to defend why you believe all other religions are in error.
- If you have evidence to support this position, it would be better to start with that evidence than to state this obvious opinion.

2. I was born a Christian.

- This may be a true statement but not a reason.
- Christianity is a choice and a willing relationship with Jesus.

3. Believing in Jesus is “easier” than following a works based religion.

- The Bible doesn’t tell us that the Christian life will be easy. In fact it says the opposite in several places.

John 16:33 - ³³ I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version. (2009). (Jn 16:33). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

- Even if Christianity were easy, that would not tell us if it was true.

4. I follow Pascal's Wager.

- Pascal's Wager posits that humans all bet with their lives either that **God exists** or that he does not. Based on the assumption that the stakes are infinite if God exists and that there is at least a small probability that God in fact exists, Pascal argues that a rational person should live as though God exists and seek to believe in God. If God does not actually exist, such a person will have only a finite loss (some pleasures, luxury, etc.), whereas they stand to receive infinite gains (as represented by eternity in **Heaven**) and avoid infinite losses (eternity in **Hell**). wikipedia.org

	God Exits	God Doesn't Exist
Belief	Heaven	Inconvenient
Disbelief	Hell	Convenient

- Pascal's Wager fails to recognize the difference religious compliance and a relationship with Jesus.

5. Being a Christian doesn't hurt anyone else.

- This is an opinion and often not perceived as being a correct one.
- There are some people who feel that because Christians stand in opposition to the sin in their lives that they are being hurt by hatred, bigotry, intolerance, etc.
- If someone feels they have been hurt by Christianity does that mean that Christianity is incorrect, that Jesus isn't the only path to salvation?