**Christian Apologetics:**

**Answering the Hard Questions**

**Our Outline:**

**I. The Trinity and Christology.**

**II. Predestination/Original Sin.**

**III. The Question of Evil.**

**IV. The Problem of Pain and Suffering.**

**V. Violence and Slavery in the Old Testament.**

**VI. The Problem of Judgment and The Problem of Hell.**

**“It’s not logical it’s Godgical” P. Chacon**

Most of the criticisms posed toward Christianity are relatively easily answered:

Science (anthropology and Adam)

What was the hominid species that rejected god? I know that that Neanderthals wore clothes (before the fall we were naked), and that they even buried their dead and decorated gravestones. And they are known to exist 200,000 years ago. Does this mean that the fall happened to Neanderthals?

Contradictions (I can think of two (take a staff, Jeremiah)

**Matt 10:10, Luke 9:3 vs Mk 6:8**

ad hoc A scribe changed the original.

History and Archaeology

Remaining things for which we have no evidence, Quirinius Luke 2:2.

Resurrection (none)

Miracles (none)

Existence of God (Who created God?

World View

Evil done in the name of Christianity.

Response: When Christians do such things, they are disobeying the one whom they claim to believe in.

How We Got the Bible/Bible Changed

Scribes and translators are not inspired.

Response: Let’s look at the examples. A red herring.

Who is Jesus/Prophecy/Jesus a Myth (none/Josephus)

Trinity:

Certainly a problem for Muslims.

I am the son of a Baptist minister and admit that I long ago dismissed "Christianity" as the most convoluted, indefensible patchwork of complete nonsense perpetrated on mankind in the last 2000 years. I believe this as strongly as you apparently do your inheriting the Jew god from the magnanimous Jesus (oh, we lucky Gentiles!) I do not say this aggressively or argumentatively, but with complete honesty. I know, as you should, that everything from belief in one god (an Egyptian idea--Amun) to the original Sumerian flood story to the Zoroastrian belief in a god of evil ("Satan") was taken from other sources and has nothing to do with the "chosen people." You know the "Bible" is absolutely replete with irreconcilable contradictions; yet, you find it rewarding to engage in apologetics, like this is somehow virtuous--to make up excuses, to reassure less astute people so they might continue to believe a dead Jew is going to make them live forever. Again, not to attack, but out of curiosity, is the money that good? There is no evidence for Christianity (except of the manufactured kind) and it's hard for me to accept you don't already know this. Really, why the charade?

Would an infallible god PREORDAIN to have to kill himself in order to appease himself? Would an all-powerful god somehow suffer from a communication problem which compels him to recruit some primitive Jews to write his biography?

Christian theology is not always rational, but it is never irrational.

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.

Isaiah 55:8-9 My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Ezekiel 18:25 God does not defend his justice system as logical.

You have every right to expect a more respectful tone. I should never have sent that e-mail. I guess the bottom line is that a good many of the questions I saw submitted prejudiced my opinion of your readers; plus, I do not view Christianity as a socially healhy phenomenon--I think it hurts far more than it helps, that it retards our growth globally. To prolong its survival isn't an attractive proposition for me. Otherwise, I'm obviously wrong to pidgeonhole you because most of what you believe with regard to science is entirely correct.

Thank you for replying after my having been so rude. I have marveled for some time that anyone who does the research would be willing to defend what seems so clear to me to be false. That's my fault not yours.  You know the history of Christianity is a sorry one (as are all three Semitic-based religions), and I'm sure you don't equate pogroms, witch burnings, wars, inquisitions, etc. with the teachings of Jesus; but my point is more that an infallible god necessarily has prior knowledge of his actions and that the results of his imperfect creation would be what we see around us. The results were preordained because they couldn't have been otherwise. So, we either have a fallible god or an irrational one. Blaming an imperfect creation for its preordained imperfection (because we supposedly had an opportunity to review all your biblical quotes) is not a convincing argument for me. Foreknowledge/predetermination is, for me, inseparable--or, at the very least, splitting hairs. The results are the same. Again, thanks for your time and tolerance.

Trinity:

Q: Is it biblical?

No, it is Tertullianical.