

Further Investigation...

Books

Great Places to Start...

The Problem of God by Mark Clark

The Reason for God by Timothy Keller

What's So Great About Christianity? by Dinesh D'Souza

Digging Deeper...

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel

Off the Continental Shelf...

Reasonable Faith by William Lane Craig

Websites

reasonablefaith.org

veritas.org

rzim.org

iamsecond.com



How can I believe when Christians have done so much harm?

December 9, 2018



Got Questions?

Consider signing up for the next Alpha series, starting in February.

Alpha explores the fundamental questions of the Christian faith. It runs for ten weeks. Each session includes a meal, video presentation, and table conversation.

There's no pressure and no charge. It's just an open, informal, and honest space to explore.



How can I believe when Christians have done so much harm?

I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.
- Mahatma Gandhi

Jesus _____.

Matthew 23:27

Jesus _____.

Matthew 7:21-23

Fallacy of Composition

The church is full of people who are _____.

1 Corinthians 1:2

Harm is the _____ of Jesus' teachings, not the _____.

A better narrative

A trivial objection

The harm is sometimes _____.

Harm done by Atheistic regimes:

- ⇒ Hitler killed 6 million Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, etc.
- ⇒ The Khmer Rouge (Cambodia) killed 2 million of their own people.
- ⇒ Stalin killed 20 million people through mass slayings and labor camps
- ⇒ Mao exterminated an estimated 50 to 70 million of his own people

Religion-inspired killing simply cannot compete with the murders perpetrated by atheist regimes. I recognize that population levels were much lower in the past, and that it's much easier to kill people today with sophisticated weapons than it was in previous centuries with swords and arrows. Even taking higher population levels into account, atheist violence surpasses religious violence by staggering proportions. Here is a rough calculation.

The world's population rose from around 500 million in 1450 AD to 2.5 billion in 1950, a fivefold increase. Taken together, the Crusades, the Inquisition, and the witch burnings killed approximately 200,000 people. Adjusting for the increase in population, that's the equivalent of one million deaths today. Even so, these deaths caused by Christian rulers over a five-hundred-year period amount to only 1 percent of the deaths caused by Stalin, Hitler and Mao in the space of a few decades.

- D'Souza, Dinesh. What's So Great About Christianity

Follow-up Questions...

We encourage you to dialogue about today's topic with others:

1. Have you wrestled with this objection yourself?
2. Is the problem of harm a reasonable objection for belief in God or is it trivial? Why or why not?
3. What do you think of the idea that Jesus provides a better narrative against harm than atheism?
4. What responsibility do Christ-followers have in representing Jesus to the world?

skeptics
welcome