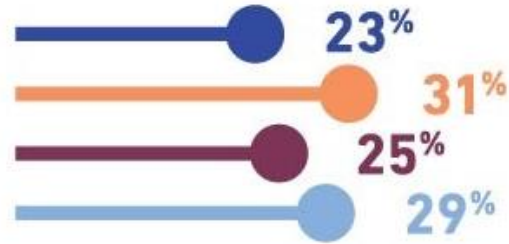


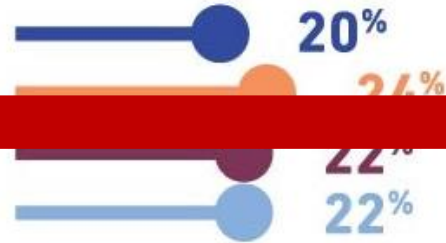
I have a hard time believing that a good God would allow so much evil or suffering in the world



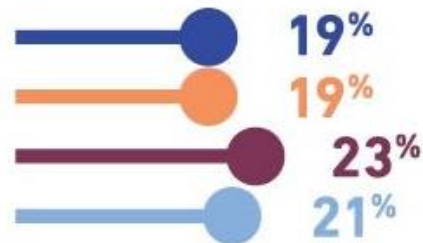
Christians are hypocrites



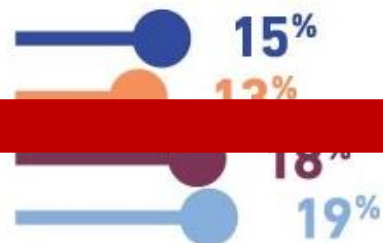
I believe science refutes too much of the Bible



I don't believe in fairy tales



There are too many injustices in the history of Christianity



I have a hard time believing that a good God would allow so much evil or suffering in the world



1. The belief in 'evil' assumes God is.

For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.  
(Gen. 3:5)

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man **has become like one of Us** in knowing good and evil." (Gen. 3:22)

I have a hard time believing that a good God would allow so much evil or suffering in the world



for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

1. The belief in 'evil' assumes God is.

2. Do you want God to stop all evil?

5. Honor your father and your mother

6. You shall not murder.

7. You shall not commit adultery.

8. You shall not steal.

9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10. You shall not covet

Exodus 20:12-17

I have a hard time believing that a good God would allow so much evil or suffering in the world



1. The belief in 'evil' assumes God is.

2. Do you want God to stop all evil?

3. God **WILL** end all evil.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Rev 21:4)

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (Rev 21:8)

I have a hard time believing that a good God would allow so much evil or suffering in the world



1. The belief in 'evil' assumes God is.

2. Do you want God to stop all evil?

3. God **WILL** end all evil.

4. Pain does serve a purpose.

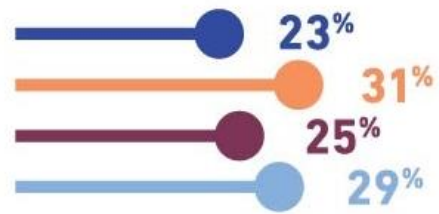
Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the **testing of your faith produces endurance.** And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

(Jas 1:2-4)

**The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness,** but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

(2 Pet 3:9)

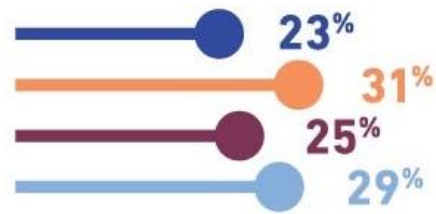
Christians are hypocrites



# 1. Christians are not the same as Christianity

- Peter denied Jesus
- Thomas doubted
- Ananias and Sapphira stole
- John Mark left
- The Corinthians backslid
- And the list goes on...

Christians are hypocrites



1. Christians are not the same as Christianity

2. The Bible acknowledges religious hypocrisy

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, **as the hypocrites** do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

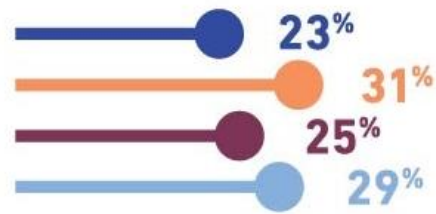
(Matt 6:2)

**You hypocrite**, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

(Matt 7:5)

And He said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of **you hypocrites**, as it is written, this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.” (Mark 7:6)

Christians are hypocrites



1. Christians are not the same as Christianity
2. The Bible acknowledges religious hypocrisy
3. Christians confess to be sinners

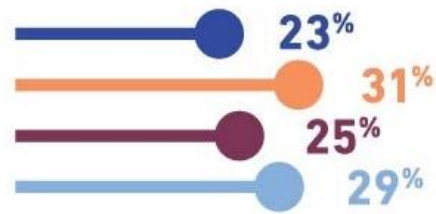
But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Lk 5:8)

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?  
(Rom 7:24)

Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (Jas 5:16)



Christians are hypocrites



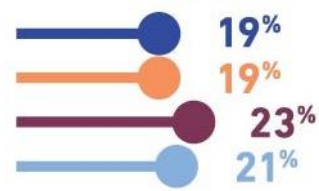
1. Christians are not the same as Christianity
2. The Bible acknowledges religious hypocrisy
3. Christians confess to be sinners
4. Others' sin doesn't remove your responsibility

The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." (Gen 3:12)

Samuel said, "What have you done?"  
"And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash," (1 Sam 13:11)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, (Php 2:12)

I don't believe in fairy tales



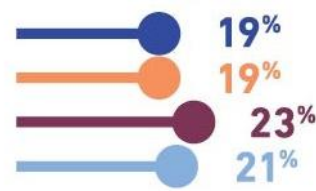
# 1. We don't either

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. (2 Peter 1:16)

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; (1 Tim 4:7)

not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. (Tit 1:14)

I don't believe in fairy tales



1. We don't either

2. The Bible encourages examination

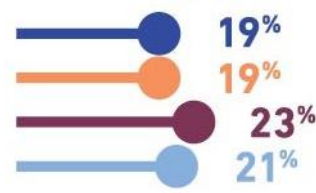
Come now, **let us reason** together, says the LORD (Isa 1:18)

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**" (Jhn 8:31-32)

This is my defense to those who would **examine me.** (1 Cor 9:3)

but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being **prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; (1 Peter 3:15)

I don't believe in fairy tales



1. We don't either

2. The Bible encourages examination

3. Christianity is a historical movement

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him **in your midst**, as you yourselves know (Acts 2:22)

- Jesus' life was public
- His miracles were public
- His death was public
- His tomb was public
- The apostles preached publicly
- Their miracles were public
- The historical record (the Bible) is STILL public

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. **I have said nothing in secret.**" (Jhn 18:20)

for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. **But I am not ashamed,** for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

**(2 Timothy 1:11-12)**