



# PSYCHOLOGICAL APOLOGETICS

A very brief summary

**Argues Christianity from the psychological make-up of man**

**MAN**

**The Bible best describes man's spiritual condition. Therefore, Christianity is true**

**BIBLE**

## STARTING POINTS

**MAN**

Argues that man is broken and will never be happy until they receive Christ as savior.

Only Jesus can help a person function the way God intended them to be.



## YOUR FOCUS

These topics are central to your defense of Christianity

**Changed Lives**  
People practically change for the better when they follow Jesus

**Morality / Ethics**  
There is a right and wrong way for man to live

**Worldviews**  
We see big differences between cultures that follow God and those that don't

**Uniqueness of Jesus/Christianity**  
The only way to live the best life is to follow Jesus

**Culture**  
People groups must follow God to thrive as a culture

**Man**  
Man is happiest when he functions the way God designed him to operate

**Coherency + Consistency**  
Christianity is the only coherent and consistent system of thought

**Theology + Doctrine**  
You care about having an accurate biblical view of man and salvation

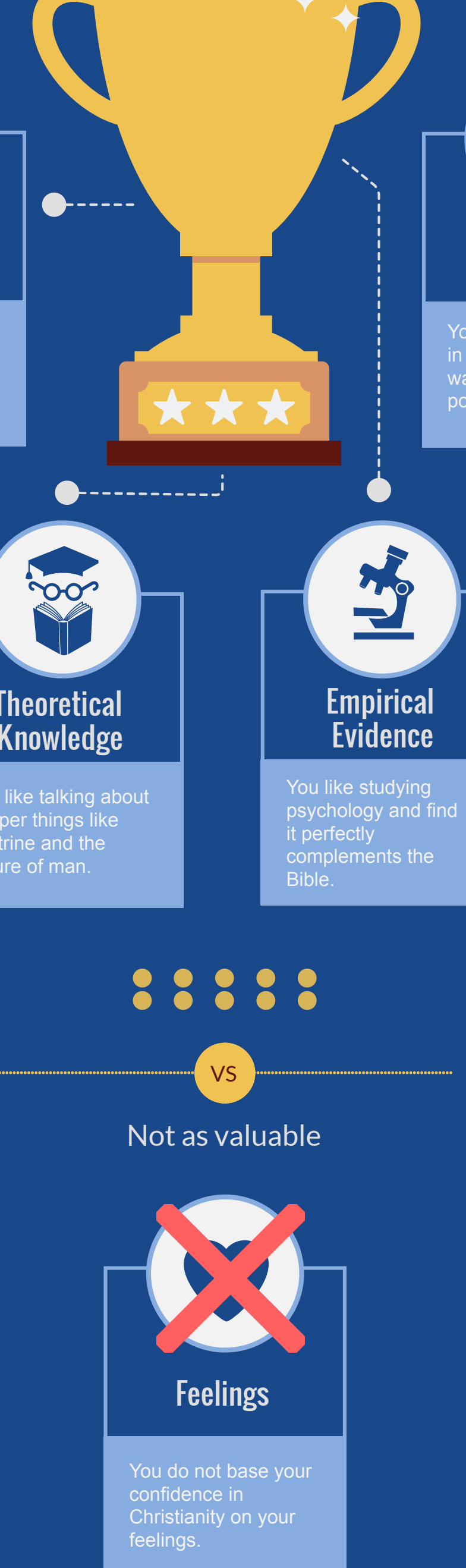
## YOUR ACTIVITY

Activities that convince you Christianity is true

**Inducing**  
You like inductive reasoning. This goes from specifics to generalizations; *a posteriori*.

**Verifying, Confirming**  
You're able to confirm Christianity produces the best way of life. The proof is in the pudding!

**Comparing**  
You like to rigorously compare ideas to see which are the best. Christianity produces the best life.



VS  
Your belief is not based on these activities

**Abstracting**  
Your defense of Christianity is not based on abstracting or thinking theoretically.

**Deducing**  
Your faith isn't based on deductive reasoning. This goes from premise to conclusion; *a priori*.

**Emoting**  
You likely avoid placing your confidence in emotions, feelings or euphoria.

**Intuiting**  
Your belief is not based on impressions, intuition and direct awareness.

**Putting Faith over Reason**  
The Bible and science's description of man complement each other.

## VALUES

What's valuable in psychological apologetics

**Practical Knowledge**  
You value practical Christianity. Your faith is something to be tangibly lived out.

**Experience**  
You can point to times in the past when your walk with God yielded positive results.

**Theoretical Knowledge**  
You like talking about deeper things like doctrine and the nature of man.

**Empirical Evidence**  
You like studying psychology and find it perfectly complements the Bible.

VS  
Not as valuable

**Feelings**  
You do not base your confidence in Christianity on your feelings.

## YOUR OPINIONS

Traditional proofs for God are valid! ✓

We can/should use science in apologetics! ✓

We can/should use reason/logic to prove God! ✓

## YOUR GOALS

What do you aim for in your proof of Christianity?

**Important**

**Results, Livability**  
You're after livability and the need to put "feet on our faith." People's lives will be the best if they follow the Bible.

VS

**Not as important**

**Certainty**  
You don't try to prove God exists with absolute certainty like other approaches might do.

**Probability**  
You could argue that evidence from psychology favors Christianity. But you'd rather tell people to just live it.

## CLOSELY RELATED



Psychological apologetics has a lot in common with...

**PRAGMA**

**PRAGMATISM**  
Argues we should accept what works. Since Christianity is true, it works, and will produce the best life we can have

**CULTURAL**

**CULTURAL APOLOGETICS**  
Argues countries are happiest, healthiest and most productive when their laws and practices are based on biblical principles

© 2020 Shawn Nelson. All rights reserved.

Visit [Nelson.ink](http://Nelson.ink)

- Take the [apologetics survey!](#)
- Get more [apologetics infographics!](#)
- Use the [apologetics Venn diagram tool!](#) (shown on right)

