

What does your belief system
(religion – life decision system) do for
you?

**Does it carry you through new
crises?**

Very few of us face the loss of a
child more than once.

What would you do if your child
was born severely
retarded/handicapped?

Does it deal with the real world?

How does it cope with people who
are not perfect?

How does it cope with natural/man-
made disasters?

Does it deal with changes in your life?

Marriage?

Divorce?

Death?

Abject poverty and starvation?

Does your belief system have purpose?

Why are you alive?

To make this world a better place?

What if you're about to leave?

To go to heaven?

Isn't that selfish?

Your religion (decision making system) has to
give your life a framework to follow!

When you pick and choose which guiding
principles you're going to follow, you become
your own god.

Pro 14:12 There is a way which seems right to
a man, But its end is the way of death.

Mt 15:9 'But in vain do they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

Lk 6:46 "And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

Jn 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

The framework has to be consistent, comprehensible and provide examples and instructions.

Consistent - Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

1Pet 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God. 24 For, "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, 25 But the word of the Lord abides forever." And this is the word which was preached to you.

Comprehensible - Eph 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is

Mt 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand

2Pet 3:16 ... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

In a crisis you need help immediately!

Jesus is always there!

Mt 28:20 ... and lo, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age. "

Mt 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are
weary and heavy-laden, and I will give
you rest.

In Jesus Christ, you do not have to go to someone else to get help!

Rev 1:6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen

1Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Even when we do not know how to go to
God, the Holy Spirit provides

Rom 8:26 And in the same way the Spirit
also helps our weakness; for we do not
know how to pray as we should, but the
Spirit Himself intercedes for us with
groanings too deep for words;

Jesus teaches us how to deal with the real world!

He dealt with racial prejudice.

Jn 4: 9 The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Jesus dealt with sickness, poverty and those who were outcast and in doing so set an example for us.

the blind Mk 10:46

the widow with two mites Mk 12:42

the lepers Lk 17:12

Jesus could give greater gifts than we can, but he taught us to use the abilities we have to help others.

1Pet 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

Christianity deals with all types of men and women
in all situations.

Fishermen - businessmen Mt 4:18

Tax collectors - highly paid but despised government
workers

Highly educated - Paul Acts 22:3

Physicians - Luke the beloved physician Col 4:14

Wealthy - Lydia Acts 16:14

An adulterous woman- Jn 8:4

People who changed the world working in their own
way as they lived their lives.

Phil 4:12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

1Ti 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Your religion has to give your life a purpose!
Job describes the battle between good and evil.

Job 1:8 And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." 9 Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

11 "But put forth Thy hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse Thee to Thy face." 12 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him."

Job 2:3 And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him without cause." 4 And Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.

Eph 3:9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; 10 in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord

Eph 6: 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

If your life decision system doesn't deal with things that go beyond death, it is insufficient since we are all going to die.

What will happen when you die?

Luk 12:17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' (18) "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. (19) 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" (20) "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' (21) "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Mar 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.