

Sociological/Psychological Argument

Psychological Argument:

1...the transformed lives of the disciples... These simple men & women gave the world the highest ethical teaching it has ever known. They believed and preached it, even to their deaths.

2...the transformed lives of the early, persecuted Christians... In spite of three centuries of persecutions, Christians did not attack their pagan enemies. They shed no blood but their own.



3...the transformed lives of _____ years of history...

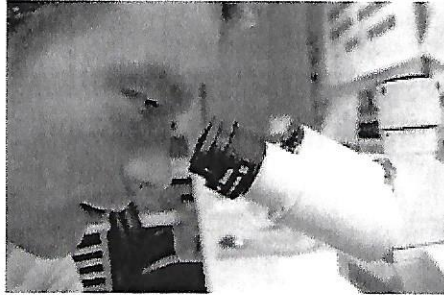
No other world religion has had such transformative power in people's lives. Please refer to the books "Jesus Freaks" and "Foxe's Book of Martyrs" for specific accounts of persecutions. Interesting note...there were 10 1st century messianic movements in Palestine. Christ's was the only one that succeeded.

How Christianity has changed Education:



Christianity was the first world religion to educate male & female children alike, despite their economic or social status. They saw all people as _____ (Galatians 3:28). No other country or religion before that did this.

How Christianity has changed Science:



If God is a rational being, then may not humans being made in His image, also employ rational processes to study & investigate the world in which He created.
Since God was rational and humans were rational (some were anyway), then the laws God set up to run the universe should be rational also.

How Christianity has changed Charity and Compassion:

We need to transfer ourselves back to the Greco-Roman culture. This will be hard, as we have grown up in a Christian culture. Human compassion among the ancients was _____.
See **Matthew 25:35,36,45 John 15:13**

Charity to orphans...Child abandonment was common in the ancient world.

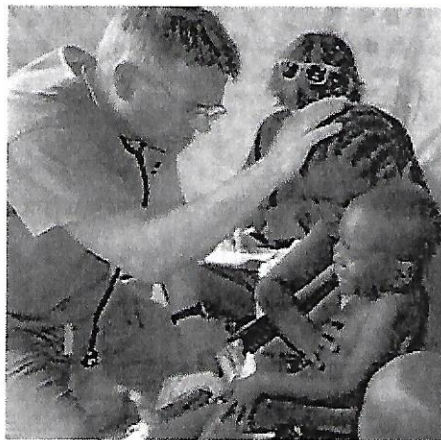
Charity to the aged... There is no historical evidence of homes for the aged in the years preceding Christianity.

Charity by American voluntary associations...



Child labor laws... A major tragedy of the industrial revolution was child-labor exploitation. ***People who think that human charity and compassion existed as a result of mere civilization without the impetus and influence of Christianity are just plain misinformed.***

Hospitals and health care... The Greco-Roman world had a colossal void when it came to caring for the sick and dying. Because God loves everyone (***John 3:16***), Christians cannot please God unless they love one another (***John 15:12,13***). The early Christians rejected the inhumane treatment of the sick and dying. They saw each person has having a redeemable soul and so, they needed to nurse and nurture each and every person regardless of the physical condition or social standing.



The American church historian Philip Schaff said,
“The old Roman world was a world without charity.”

How Christianity has changed Labor and Economic Freedom:

The Greco-Roman world had an extremely low view of physical labor, namely that it was suitable only for slaves and the lower classes. Christians assigned work honor and dignity for 3

reasons:

1. Jesus was a carpenter, a lowly profession.
2. Paul earned a living from a trade, tent-making.
3. They believed **2nd Thessalonians 3:10, Luke 10:7**

Hence, Christians saw work as a “calling” that was under the Lordship of Christ...

Colossians 3:17,23, 24



The Christian work ethic

has been rightly credited with greatly reducing poverty and its by-product, disease.

How Christianity has changed Property Rights and Individual Freedom:

Exodus 20:15, 17 “...you shall not steal and you shall not covet...” Both of these commandments assume the person has the right and freedom to acquire, retain and sell his property at his discretion.

Capitalism (or more accurately, free markets or free enterprise) is a by-product of Christianity’s value of spiritual freedom applied to economic life and activities.

How Christianity Abolished Slavery:

Slavery is a _____ stable in every society that ever existed.



Christianity was the first major religion that was against slavery. **Galatians 3:28**