

COMMON OBJECTION

Christianity is just a crutch for the weak?

Some people pride themselves in their strength. They feel almost invincible. And so they can easily despise a faith that speaks of strengthening the weak and lifting the fallen.

Perhaps we have grown so accustomed to the crutches of our society that we hardly recognize them for what they are. The mad quest for intimacy, to still the ever-present pain of loneliness. The activism with which we fill our lives because we dare not stop and ask who we are and where we are going. The dependence on alcohol, nicotine, and drugs become too great. The anxiety state which demands an array of tranquillizers before we can face going to sleep at night. The attempt to prop up our lives with material things. Or the reaction which drives us to Eastern mysticism, TM, and seminars for the improvement of our human potential. Following our daily horoscope, hoping it has a key to how our day may be. Crutches, every one of them. There seems no end to the props people use as they go limping through life.

And Christianity – is it just another crutch?

In one sense, yes it is. Christianity is for people who do not pretend they are invincible, but know they have got something broken. If ours were a perfect world and we were perfect people there might be no need for Christianity. But such is not the case. Our world, our lives, is fractured by greed and lust, by cruelty and selfishness. Don't believe me. Just glance at a newspaper or watch the television news.

Christianity is unashamedly a rescue religion. That is why so many self-satisfied people steer clear of it. 'I have come to heal the sick,' said Jesus. 'Those that are well don't need a doctor' (Luke 5:31-32). But he (Jesus) knew that in his meaning no one is healthy. Not even you or me.

If you think Christianity is a crutch for the weak, make sure that your accusation is not a smokescreen to deny your own inadequacies. Make sure that it is not an excuse to evade the claims that the living God has on your life. His remedy is very radical, but very effective. He takes wounded, fractured people and makes them whole.