

¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16

⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

The world does not want us on the offense.

Richard Dawkins: “The onus is on you to say why you believe in something.”

Question 1

What makes you so sure God exists at all—especially when you can’t see, hear, or touch him?

- How do you account for the existence of the universe?
- Is it eternal? Science & philosophy say it is not.
- Did it pop into existence out of nothing, by nothing, and for nothing?
 - That takes more faith than believing God made it!
- How did it become so precisely fine-tuned, down to the most infinitesimal detail, in order to sustain life?
- Without a transcendent moral lawgiver on which to ground moral laws, what’s the basis on which to say anything is ultimately right or wrong?

Question 2

Didn’t evolution put God out of a job? Why rely on religion in an age of science & knowledge?

- How do you explain the “stuff” being here in the first place?
 - the first life arising without explanation
 - the fossil record that shows the rapid appearance of numerous species without any clear-cut transitional ones between species
 - the elaborate encoding in DNA

Question 3

Why trust the Bible, a book based on myths and full of contradictions and mistakes?

- What do you mean?
 - What specific myths are you referring to?
 - What contradictions bother you the most?

Question 4

Everyone knows Jesus was a good man and a wise teacher—but why try to make him into the Son of God too?

- Jesus could not have been simply a good man.
 - Since He claimed to be God, He was either
 - a liar, or
 - a lunatic, or
 - telling the truth!
- How long has it been since you read the Gospels for yourself? Would you like to study them together?

Question 5

How could a good God allow so much evil, pain, and suffering—or does he simply not care?

- There's a time for talking about this issue, and a time for not talking about it.
- What's the alternative?
- No God? In that case, what meaning does pain have?
- Nobody has suffered more than Jesus, who went through unthinkable physical, mental, psychological, and spiritual trauma—all on our behalf.

Question 6

Why is abortion such a line in the sand for Christians? Why can't I be left alone to make my own choices for my own body?

- Are you 100% certain it's not a living human child inside the womb?
- If you have any doubt, shouldn't you side with the child?
- We're not talking about a woman's own body here.
- Unique genetic makeup, independent brain waves, own heartbeat, own blood type, own fingerprints & facial expressions. This is a human life!

Question 7

Why do you condemn homosexuality when it's clear that God made homosexuals and that he loves all people the same?

- Given Jesus' strong and positive explanation of God's plan for marriage (Matt 19), what do you think he would say about homosexual relationships?
- Do you see anywhere in Jesus' words—or in the teachings of the Bible as a whole—where the Bible actually condones homosexual behavior?

Question 8-9

How can I trust in Christianity when so many Christians are hypocrites? And why are they so judgmental toward everyone who doesn't agree with them?

- Hypocrisy and judgmentalism are problems for some Christians
 - Sometimes we pretend to be better than we are and better than others.
 - What person in the Bible do you think most agreed with your concern and spoke out most strongly on it?

Question 10

Why should I think heaven really exists—and that God sends people to hell?

- God doesn't send people to hell—he merely honors their own choice.
- If I'm wondering what it's like to walk on the moon, I'm going to listen to someone who's done it.