

10 QUESTIONS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD ANSWER

Lately the big talk on YouTube has been a video titled “10 questions every Christian should answer”. During the video an atheist narrator asks the viewer to answer the questions with sound logic using rational thinking. So with all the talk about this video I thought I should tackle the task and be ready to give an answer the following questions.

QUESTION 1 – WHY WON’T GOD HEAL AMPUTEES?

The argument is that Christians should be able to pray to God for any type of healing and He should answer us. This would include healings regarding cancer, healings with drug addiction, and healings with all types of medical issues. So if God has the power to do it then why doesn’t He heal amputees? Why doesn’t the Christian just pray so that God will spontaneously regenerate limbs?

First of all to even suggest such a thing you have misunderstood the nature of prayer and the nature of God. Prayer is not some sort of cosmic ordering service where you pull up to the window like you were ordering a Big Mac from McDonald’s. Instead prayer is an act of faith where I pray to God agreeing with His will and in His time. He knows what is best for me and that is the will that I should seek when I am in prayer to a Holy and Righteous God.

Second, if the nature of the request were granted then in a way that would be proof of God’s existence. So why wouldn’t God want to prove Himself this way? Because true love requires faith and love demands a choice. If God was to prove Himself by such a miracle then it couldn’t be a true faith and a true love towards God because you would have absolute proof of His existence. Also we don’t determine what is sufficient proof for God’s existence...He does. And in His Word he tells us that creation is proof of a creator (Romans 1:20) and our conscience is proof that God’s law is written on our hearts (Romans 2:15).

Third, why doesn’t God heal amputees? Who says He doesn’t? Maybe not in the way that you care for but let’s think about this for a moment. Isn’t medicine a benefit given by God to human beings so that God could be glorified? Don’t you think that when prosthetic limbs were developed that people thanked God for them? So the argument suggests that God should make an arm sprout out of someone’s shoulder but you are not God and you don’t write the rules. God created medicine and He uses it to heal people. So why didn’t Jesus heal someone who was missing a leg from the knee down? Trust me if He did you would find something else to belly ache about.

QUESTION 2 – WHY ARE THERE SO MANY STARVING PEOPLE IN OUR WORLD?

This is another misconception about God. God does not answer all of our prayers just because we ask Him to do so. He is not a divine butler but He is the sovereign Creator who will judge the world in righteousness (His standard not ours).

Here's some advice to those people who use this excuse to deny God. Take some responsibility for the current conditions of mankind. Mankind has caused the sufferings of people all over the globe. If you are truly interested in feeding the homeless and starving children then go and do something. Back up your words with actions!

We must remember that when God created everything in the beginning it was perfect. There was no sin, disease, death, or hunger, but sin entered the world through Adam (Romans 5:12). We cannot blame God for our mistakes and our sins. That is the nature of man to pass the blame. In the Garden of Eden Adam blamed Eve by saying "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." – Gen 3:12.

QUESTION 3 – WHY DOES GOD DEMAND THE DEATH OF SO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE?

Once again, we see a loaded question. Notice the word "innocent". The question is worded in a way that suggests God is already guilty of such a thing. The atheist has already made up his mind that God ordered the death of innocent people. There's no desire for inquiry here, just a loaded question designed to attack Christianity.

As example of God ordering the death of "innocent" people the following examples are used:

Exodus 35:2 – those who work on the Sabbath

Deuteronomy 21 – disobedient teenagers

Leviticus 20:13 – homosexuals

Deuteronomy 22 – promiscuous women who marry

First, many people including Christians will find the penalties of the Mosaic Law harsh and unsettling so let's deal with the word "innocent".

Let's take the family. God's biblical standard for the family is a high one. A sexually pure man unites in a committed, lifelong union with a sexually pure woman. A heterosexual union is formed in which children are born. These children are brought up to honor and obey their parents. Then when they become old enough the cycle repeats. This is a fair and very simple picture of God's standard for the family.

Please notice that three of the four examples of God killing "innocent" people represent disobedience to God's standard. Promiscuity before marriage is an offense to God, as are same sex relations, as are disobedient teenagers.

Are these standards fair or just? Well, that's what they were for the ancient Israelites, according to the Torah. Whether you agree with them or not is immaterial for now. But one thing is clear; those punished for violating these standards were NOT "innocent" in God's eyes.

What about the Sabbath? The Sabbath was the one day of the week, which served as a tangible reminder of their unique relationship with the Lord. They had plenty of experiences with God to understand His reality. It wasn't simply a faith thing for them. They knew who God was - and they knew what was being asked of them. And they *KNEW* to take the Sabbath seriously.

Second, the question needs to be asked – Who is qualified to determine guilt or innocence?

For the video to describe anyone as innocent is to presuppose a moral code of some kind. But wait. If the video is right from an atheist point of view, what possible moral code exists? I'm not saying that an atheist can't be "moral". But what I am asking is – By what standard can an atheist decide the guilt or innocence of another person or group of people?

QUESTION 4 – WHY DOES THE BIBLE CONTAIN SO MUCH ANTI-SCIENTIFIC NON-SENSE?

You're kidding right? How about the following for scientific evidence in the Bible.

Isaiah 40:22 (written 2800 years ago): "It is he that sits upon the circle of the earth."

The Bible informs us here that the earth is round. At a time when science believed that the earth was flat, it was the Scriptures that inspired Christopher Columbus to sail around the world. He wrote: "It was the Lord who put it into my mind. I could feel His hand upon me . . . there is no question the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit because He comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scriptures . . ." (From his diary, in reference to his discovery of "the New World").

Job 26:7 (written 3500 years ago): "He stretches out the north over the empty place, and hangs the earth upon nothing."

The Bible claimed that the earth freely floated in space. Science then thought that the earth sat on a large animal. We now know that the earth has a free float in space.

Jeremiah 33:22 (written 2500 years ago): "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured."

The Bible claimed that there are billions of stars ("host of heaven" is the biblical term for the stars). When it made this statement, no one knew how vast the numbers of stars were as only about 1,100 were observable. Now we know that there are *billions of stars, and that they cannot be numbered*.

Psalms 135:7 "He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth"

Job 36:27,28 "For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapor thereof: which the clouds do drop and distil upon man abundantly."

This describes the water cycle that produces rain for the earth.

This is just a sampling of the scientific evidence that is found in the Bible. To make the claims that the Bible does not provide any information outside of the time it was authored simply shows that the individual has no idea what he or she is talking about.

QUESTION 5 – WHY IS GOD SUCH A HUGE PROPONENT OF SLAVERY IN THE BIBLE?

The Bible does not specifically condemn the practice of slavery. It gives instructions on how slaves should be treated (Deuteronomy 15:12-15; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1), but does not outlaw the practice altogether. Many see this as the Bible condoning all forms of slavery. What many people fail to understand is that slavery in Biblical times was very different from the slavery that was practiced in the

past few centuries in many parts of the world. The slavery in the Bible was not based exclusively on race. People were not enslaved because of their nationality or the color of their skin. In Bible times, slavery was more of a social status. People sold themselves as slaves when they could not pay their debts or provide for their family. In New Testament times, sometimes doctors, lawyers, and even politicians were slaves of someone else. Some people actually chose to be slaves so as to have all their needs provided for by their master.

Another crucial point is that the purpose of the Bible is to point the way to salvation, not to reform society. The Bible often approaches issues from the inside-out. If a person experiences the love, mercy, and grace of God, receiving His salvation – God will reform his soul, changing the way he thinks and acts. A person who has experienced God’s gift of salvation and freedom from the slavery of sin, as God reforms his soul, he will realize that enslaving another human being is wrong. A person who has truly experienced God’s grace will in turn be gracious towards others. That would be the Bible’s prescription for ending slavery.

QUESTION 6 – WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

First of all, if you are saying that there is no God then what standard are you using to determine right and wrong? If you do not believe in God how can you determine what are “bad things” and who are “good people”. If God does not exist then good and bad is just a random chemical process that occurs in my brain and could be different than yours. Therefore my definition of a “good thing” could be that it is ok for me to kill you and you can say nothing about it because it is how I have determined good and bad.

This question reminds me of a story found in Luke 13. Some people were telling Jesus about a tower that fell on and killed 18 people. Those around Jesus asked Him if the ones that died were horrible sinners. Jesus answered and said, “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” Christ calls all to repent, for all are in danger of sudden destruction. No one is guaranteed time to repent for death, so now is the time for repentance for all.

Let’s also remember what the Bible says about good people.

- The Bible tell us that there is not one who does good, no not one

Roman 3:10-12 - There is none righteous, no, not one;

There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one

- The Bible also tell us that our good deeds are as filthy rags before God

Isaiah 64:6 - But we are all like an unclean thing,
And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;
We all fade as a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind,
Have taken us away.

- Our hearts are deceitful and wicked.

Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart *is* deceitful above all things,
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?

So you see, bad things cannot happen to good people because no one is good in their own righteousness in the sight of God.

QUESTION 7 – WHY DIDN'T ANY OF JESUS MIRACLES IN THE BIBLE LEAVE BEHIND ANY EVIDENCE?

The reason that God doesn't leave behind the type of physical evidence that atheists crave is because of choice, free will, and love. If He would have left behind that type of evidence He would have made it impossible for us to truly love Him because it would have forced us to. If we knew how amazing God is we couldn't choose we would just have to worship Him and that is not love. If I would have forced my wife to marry me at gunpoint is that really love? Of course not! Again real love demands a choice.

But no evidence at all? Give me a break. We have over 24,000 complete, partials, and scraps of manuscript evidence. The New Testament manuscripts stand alone far above any other document in the history of antiquity. Oh, and let's not forget the historical evidence of the Bible. Libraries are filled with books on the archeological verification of the Bible. How do you deal with the hundreds of very detailed fulfilled prophecies of the Bible? I'm no Lieutenant Columbo but that sounds like evidence to me.

QUESTION 8 – HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT JESUS HAS NEVER APPEARED TO YOU?

Again, I go back to the issue of faith and love. If Jesus appeared to us in the way that so many atheist want then we would most certainly be forced to love Him because we would see Him as He is. If we only truly knew the holiness of God would fall down on our faces in terror and fear because of His perfection. No man can see God and live (Exodus 33:20).

Jesus has appeared to people in the past. We have a record of it that anyone can check out. It's called "The Gospels". Jesus, God manifested in the flesh chose to come to Earth and die for the sin of man. He created a body and filled that body as a hand fills a glove. Not only did Jesus appear to His disciples but He also appeared to the apostle Paul. Be sure and check out 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. Jesus appeared to

over 500 people after His resurrection. Most of these people were alive when Paul wrote this epistle and could have refuted his claims.

QUESTION 9 – WHY WOULD JESUS WANT YOU TO EAT HIS BODY AND DRINK HIS BLOOD?

Now you don't really think that Jesus is endorsing cannibalism, do you? Jesus' point was an analogy that has spiritual, rather than literal, significance: just as eating and drinking are necessary for physical life, so also is belief in His sacrificial death on the cross necessary for eternal life. The eating of His flesh and drinking of His blood metaphorically symbolize the need for accepting Jesus' work on the cross.

QUESTION 10 – WHY DO CHRISTIANS GET DIVORCED AT THE SAME RATE AS NON-CHRISTIANS?

I can understand why atheists and agnostics might have a high rate of divorce, since they are less likely to believe in concepts such as sin, absolute moral truth and judgment. Yet a recent survey by the Barna Group found that the percentage of atheists and agnostics who have been married and divorced is 37 percent — very similar to the numbers for the born again population. A quote from the Barna survey reads, "Given the current growth in the number of atheists and agnostics, and that younger generations are predisposed to divorce, we do not anticipate a reversal of the present pattern within the next decade." As Christians we have to do better because unfortunately this affects our testimony as Christians to the whole world. Something else to consider is hypocrisy. Many people who claim to be Christians and follow Jesus do not practice what they preach. They are false converts who do not obey the commands of God but trample the blood of Christ for an occasion of the flesh. I can only imagine that many so called "Christian" marriages end in divorce due to anger, jealousy, bitterness and infidelity.