

Reformed University Fellowship

How to Share Your Faith Conference

Answering Difficult Questions

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

PRINCIPLES OF ANSWERING DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

- 1) Goal: To get to the gospel as soon as possible.
There is power in the gospel.
It is the answer to most questions.

- 2) Keep to the main issue (i.e. the gospel)
Beware of “smokescreens”.
Man’s problem is usually moral, not intellectual (Romans 1).
“If I could answer all your questions, would you become a Christian?”

- 3) Be on the offense / Don’t get defensive
We need to be asking the questions.
Watch your attitude.
Don’t defend God; He can defend Himself.
Do the best you can.
If you don’t know an answer, get back to them later.
Learn so you can be more affective the next time.

- 4) Use your greatest weapons (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
Pray while you are sharing.
Use Scripture as much as possible.

THE MOST FREQUENT DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

- 1) Is Jesus the only way to God?
Don’t all religions get you to the same God?
It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere.
Scriptures: John 14:6, Acts 4:12
“Can I show you an illustration that explains why Jesus is the only way to God?”
analogy of swimming to Hawaii
a person can be sincerely wrong, faith is only as good as its object.
Christianity is different: it alone has a living Savior, other religions tell you how to be a better person, Christianity says a person can never be good enough, Jesus does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

- 2) Won’t a good, moral life get you to heaven?
What about the ten commandments?
only a perfect life can get you to heaven, God has a holy standard
“Can I show you an illustration which explains why no one can get to heaven by trying to live a good life?”

Scriptures: (all are sinners) Romans 3:23, 6:23, Isaiah 59:2;
also Isaiah 53:6, James 2:10, 4:17
analogies: the test, God does not grade on a curve; three sins a day; video tape of
everything you've ever said, done, or thought.
the Law was given to show our sinfulness and our need for a Savior

3) What about people who have never heard?

What about the pigmy in Africa?

this question is often a smokescreen

Scriptures: John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Romans 1:18-20, 10: 13-17

the Bible seems to say that ignorance is not an excuse

God is just He does not send people to hell for not believing in Jesus when they
have never heard

God judges men because they have broken His standard and have rebelled
against the knowledge that they do have (Rom. 1-3

But you have heard, the real question is what are you going to do about Jesus?

4) What about all the contradictions in the Bible?

Isn't it full of errors? Can I trust it?

contradictions in the Bible? name one!

try to answer or get back to them

Scriptures: 1 Peter 2:20-21, 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible claims to have all authority based on its divine authorship

The authority of the Bible is ultimately based on the authority of Jesus,
He based His life and ministry on the O.T. and commissioned His
disciples to write the N.T. (John 14:26, 16:13)

the real question is whether Jesus truly is who He claimed to be

the only way to know for sure if the Bible is true, is to read it

“Can I show you an illustration that explains the main theme of the Bible?”

5) How can miracles be possible?

the real question is whether or not God exists

if there is a God who created this universe and the laws of nature, He can certainly
suspend those laws to accomplish His purposes

6) How can I know for sure that God really exists?

Scripture: Romans 1:19-20

Hints of God's existence (but not proofs) - design in the universe, the principle of cause
and effect

analogy of a watch on the moon

God cannot be proved or disproved by the scientific method

we know that God exists because He became a man and lived among us

“Can I show you an illustration that explains what the Bible says about God and His
involvement in human history?”

7) Why should I believe in the deity of Christ?

Scriptures: John 8:58, 10:30, 14:6-9, 20:26-29

Jesus claimed to be God, His life and teaching backed it up

the greatest proof is His resurrection from the dead

Jesus was either a liar, lunatic, legend, or Lord; this can be used as a question, ask the
person which alternative makes the most sense, since none of the others fit the
facts, it is certainly worth examining His claims to be Lord.

8) Is there any evidence that Jesus rose from the dead?

Plenty! - the empty tomb, eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:1-8), the change in the disciples from cowards to bold witnesses, the conversion of Saul the growth of the early church, His influence on history, changed lives today

“Can I show you an illustration which explains the significance of Jesus’ resurrection?”

9) Why should I become a Christian when the church is full of hypocrites?

Not all Christians are hypocrites, not everyone who goes to church is a real Christian, even sincere Christians are not perfect but they are forgiven.
the important thing is that Jesus was perfect and He is worthy of our love and commitment

10) If God is good, why is there so much evil and suffering in the world?

God is both all powerful and loving

He is not the author of evil and suffering, they are the result of man’s rebellion against God (i.e. the result of sin)

God allows suffering to continue but He Himself was also willing to suffer for us

“Can I show you an illustration that explains how Jesus’ suffering on the cross makes it possible for us to avoid eternal suffering?”

God promises that Christians will spend eternity in a place which is free of evil and suffering (Revelation 21:1-5)