

Evidence for Faith

Why Biblical Christianity is True and all Opposing Views are False

1. **Why would a person believe Biblical Christianity is the one and only true faith--that all biblical doctrines are true and all teachings that contradict biblical doctrines are false? Why can't all religions be true?**

All other major worldviews and religions contradict some of the major teachings of Biblical Christianity (e.g., major teachings such as God is transcendent and immanent, all people need salvation, Jesus is truly God and truly man, Jesus died for the sins of the world, Jesus rose bodily from the grave, and salvation is only by the grace of Christ through faith in Christ—not by works). (The text of the Bible communicates objective truth that can be understood. Some parts are difficult to understand, but not impossible. Continued growth in understanding comes through praise, prayer, humility, study, and obedience. Also, since God used human writers to pen his word in human language to communicate to human beings, valid principles of human language interpretation and application should always be observed.)

2. **Why believe objective truth can be conveyed through human language?**

This is undeniable since to deny it through language would affirm the proposition being denied.

3. **Why is the Bible true?**

Jesus of Nazareth believed it was true, addressing scripture as God's word. Jesus also taught the preservation of scripture, including the Old Testament, His own words, and more truth that He would give his apostles after he left. He said he would send the Holy Spirit and build his invincible church to carry the record of himself throughout all generations. By the providential guidance of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' church has been able to recognize, preserve, and teach the Old and New Testament scriptures.

4. **Why should Jesus' view of scripture be accepted as the correct view?**

Because Jesus is God, and therefore cannot err.

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5. Why would a person think Jesus is God?

Because Jesus rose from the dead as he had predicted, validating his claim that he was God. (There are good historical reasons to believe Jesus made many extra-ordinary claims about himself. Based on these claims, Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. Someone who is merely a good teacher or good man does not make such claims.)

6. Why believe Jesus rose from the dead?

The best explanation of the historical facts concerning Jesus of Nazareth is that he miraculously rose from the dead by the power of God. All other explanations fail.

The earliest historical documents concerning Jesus are reliable. They firmly establish key facts about Jesus' death and reported resurrection. The very early creeds of Jesus' followers show that central Christian doctrines (such as the vicarious atonement and bodily resurrection of Jesus) were not fabricated over multiple generations as legends require.

- a. Jesus was crucified to death on a Roman cross
- b. Jesus was buried
- c. The tomb was empty three days after his burial
- d. The apostles give credible eye-witness testimony to many post-mortem appearances of Jesus
- e. The disciples of Jesus sincerely believed that Jesus rose from the dead

7. With all the other miracle claims, why would a person want to investigate this particular claim?

There is intellectual and practical incentive to investigate Jesus of Nazareth because of the claims he made about himself, what he said is at stake for all people, and his world-transforming influence. Furthermore, many competing worldviews and religions are eliminated as viable candidates for explaining

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physical reality (e.g., atheism and pantheism). Only a *transcendent* God could explain the universe's existence.

8. But why would a person think miracles are possible?

If God exists, miracles are possible. The world system cannot merely be assumed to be closed. Laws of nature are descriptive (*describing* what normally occurs), not prescriptive (*prescribing* what must occur). A miracle would not be a violation of the laws of nature but a suspension of the normal laws for a higher supernatural law. If God created the universe from nothing, miracles are child's play for God.

9. Why believe a transcendent God exists?

There are good reasons to believe that a personal, intelligent, good, powerful, transcendent, immutable, eternal God exists.

- a. The universe began and thus had a supernatural and immensely powerful transcendent cause.
- b. A totally independent being must exist to ground in existence all caused, dependent beings.
- c. Life is based on highly-specified complex information which, from our uniform experience, comes only from intelligence. Since chance and necessity fail to explain the fine-tuning of physics and the complex genetic language of life, design is the only other option.
 - i. the exquisite fine-tuned constants and values of physics that allow any life in the universe (that allow chemistry and matter)
 - ii. the highly-complex, molecular, genetic language that instructs the building and replication of all living organisms

Humans have a mind, consciousness, free will, love, and a sense of moral awareness and human dignity which are best explained by a personal, thinking, loving, moral law-giver. Music, mathematics and the applicability of mathematics to the physical world are also best explained by God rather than by coincidence.

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All atheistic arguments to explain the outer world of nature and the inner world of personhood fail. All atheistic arguments against God's existence fail. And since the universe had a beginning, pantheistic views of God fail.

10. Why believe truth is objective and not relative?

Truth is objective and universal. Truth corresponds to reality. This correspondence view of truth is undeniable since any denial would imply that it (the denial) corresponds to reality.

11. Why believe truth is knowable?

Some knowledge is self-evident and/or undeniable, such as the reality of the world and the basic laws of logic. Without this foundational knowledge, no coherent thought or communication would be possible. It also avoids circular reason and an infinite regress which would lead to no knowledge. On this foundation, knowledge can be obtained through sense experience, sound reason, religious experience, and information from reliable sources.

Sources:

Book by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*, with associated workbook and curriculum

Booklet by Ratio Christi (www.RatioChristi.org), *What if Christianity is Actually True? How Can We Know, and Why Does it Matter?*

Book by James Dew Jr. and Mark Foreman, *How Do We Know?*

Book by William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*

Books by Stephen Meyer, *Signature in the Cell* and *Darwin's Doubt*

Book by C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*