



evolution

philosophy

science

standing

**FIRM**

*in your*

**FAITH**

TRUTH

morality

skeptics

atheists

ANSWERS TO THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST CHRISTIANITY

**TOM SHORT**

- SESSION 1 -

# The Nature of True Faith

Modern skeptic says: "I'd like to have faith, but I can't."

Faith is \_\_\_\_\_. Most of life is based on faith.

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for everyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)*

But, faith is also \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith is an assured \_\_\_\_\_ based on \_\_\_\_\_

*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)*

Faith involves a commitment of the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

*True faith*  
Believe with reliable  
\_\_\_\_\_

vs

*Blind faith*  
Believing with  
\_\_\_\_\_ evidence;  
being gullible

Illustration:

## Conclusion:

**It requires faith to be a Christian, but the Christian faith is not unreasonable; it appeals to the intellect as well as to the heart.**

**Apologetics:** Offering a \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith

- *“always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15)*
- *Paul’s ministry: “reasoning” and “persuading” (Acts 17:17, 18:4, 19:8, 9)*
- *“contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3)*
- *Jesus presented Himself alive by “many convincing proofs” (Acts 1:3)*

When using apologetics, always remember...

- Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 3:15)
- God reveals his truth to those who are humble and teachable (Matthew 11:25-26, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16)
- There are ultimately two reasons a person won’t come to Christ:
  1. The reason that \_\_\_\_\_
  2. The \_\_\_\_\_ reason

Real Reasons: (Hebrews 12:15:16)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Application point: Learn how to discover and minister to real reasons.**

How? Ask good questions.

- SESSION 2 -

# The Unseen God Really Does Exist

The Bible assumes that the existence of God is \_\_\_\_\_ and tells us that God has made Himself \_\_\_\_\_ to all people (Romans 1:20).

**Q.** *How do you know God exists? You've never seen Him, have you?*

**A.** There are many things we have not seen that we believe because there is \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

## Logical evidence for a Creator

A book is evidence that an \_\_\_\_\_ exists.

A building is evidence that an \_\_\_\_\_ exists.

A watch is evidence of that a \_\_\_\_\_ exists.

A creation is evidence that a \_\_\_\_\_ exists.

## Cosmological Argument

Whatever begins to exist has a \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ began to exist

Therefore, the *universe* has a *cause*

Because the universe cannot cause \_\_\_\_\_, its cause must be \_\_\_\_\_ the space-time universe. The cause must be spaceless, timeless, uncaused, immaterial and powerful

Q. *If everything needed a creator, then who created God?*

A. \_\_\_\_\_! God is eternal, self-existing and not subject to the laws of the physical universe. (Exodus 3:14).

Q. *But how do we know that it is the Christian God?*

A. The creation bears witness to the Christian God.

**God: the great “first cause”**

The first cause of limitless space must be \_\_\_\_\_

The first cause of endless time must be \_\_\_\_\_

The first cause of boundless energy must be \_\_\_\_\_

The first cause of infinite complexity must be \_\_\_\_\_

The first cause of life must be \_\_\_\_\_

The first cause of love must be \_\_\_\_\_

The first cause of personality must be \_\_\_\_\_

Thus, the first cause of the universe must be infinite, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, living, loving and personal.

**The Tri-unity of God seen in the universe**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Q. *If God is all loving and all-powerful, why is there evil in the world?*

- God created the world, and it was \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:31).
- God gave Adam the ability to either love and \_\_\_\_\_ Him or rebel and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
- When Adam \_\_\_\_\_ to sin, death and suffering entered the world (Romans 5:12).
- Adam had dominion over the entire creation (Genesis 1:26), and when he sinned, the entire creation was \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:20-22).

A. Thus, evil and suffering are in the world as a result of people wrongly exercising their \_\_\_\_\_.

*Free will:* God gives us the ability to sin, but not the \_\_\_\_\_ to sin.

Notice that nearly all suffering is the direct result of someone \_\_\_\_\_  
God's commands

1. I suffer because of a choice \_\_\_\_ make.
2. I suffer because of a choice \_\_\_\_\_ makes.
3. Natural disasters go back to a choice \_\_\_\_\_ made (Romans 8:20-22).

A. For God's \_\_\_\_\_ to be fully seen, it was necessary for man to sin.

Every person will demonstrate either God's

- love and \_\_\_\_\_, or
- His wrath and \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 9:22-23).

A. We can rejoice to realize that God will someday \_\_\_\_\_ all evil.

- A. With God, \_\_\_\_\_ can come from evil (Genesis 50:20). God can use evil and suffering to His ultimate purpose in our lives. He causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28-29).

NOTE: One of Satan's goals is to do evil and then cause the victim of that evil to blame God. We must be able to identify actions which are of God and actions which are of the devil. Each will act according to his nature and character.

<b>God is:</b>	<b>Satan is:</b>
Holy	A liar
Eternal	Cunning
Infinite	A tempter
Omnipresent	Deceitful
Omniscient	Totally evil
Truth	A thief
Just	Our adversary
Good	Wicked
Unchangeable	Cowardly
Life	A murderer
Sovereign	Without principles
Love	Rebellious
Faithful	Cruel
Merciful	A destroyer
Provident	Proud

- SESSION 3 -

# Creation and Evolution

## True or False:

Evolution is based on science and has many facts to back it up; creation is based solely on faith and only has Genesis to back it up.

Neither creation nor evolution can be

*observed,*

*tested,*

*repeated or*

*falsified.*

- Thus, neither can claim to fit the modern definition of “science.”
- Both have a model based on \_\_\_\_\_ by which they explain observable data.
- Don't be naive enough to think that all scientists are objective and all Christians are not!

*“We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”*

<sup>1</sup> Richard Lewontin, “Billions and Billions of Demons,” The New York Review, January 9, 1998, p 31.



**Creation Model:**

This ranges from those who take Genesis literally to teach that in six days God made a mature and fully functioning universe in which living things would reproduce after their own kind. This is known as “Scientific Creationism.” There are also those who have a looser interpretation of Genesis (maybe not even believing it at all) but believe there is overwhelming evidence for a Creator. This is called the “Intelligent Design” theory.

**Evolution Model:**

Naturalistic evolution claims that all the diversity of life now on the earth is the result of mutations, natural selection, and other random processes gradually changing over millions of years. Many people who believe in God try to make the Bible fit with evolutionary theory, claiming that “God caused evolution to happen.” This is called “Theistic Evolution.”

## Looking at the Scientific Evidence

- Creationists **do** believe in “\_\_\_\_\_ evolution”.
- Creationists **don’t** believe in “\_\_\_\_\_ evolution” – mutating into a new kind, adding more genetic material via mutation and that natural selection can explain the tremendous diversity we see.

### 1. *The Incredible Complexity and Design of Life and the Universe*

*Biblical Basis:* Psalm 139:13, Isaiah 40:25-26

*Questions for Evolutionist:*

- Do you believe that chaos + Time = Order?
- Can you point to anything with complexity, design and order to it that we know came about by chance?

### 2. *The Law of Biogenesis: Life Reproduces Life*

*Biblical Basis:* Genesis 1 “reproduce after their own kind”

*Questions for Evolutionist:*

- How do you believe inorganic material came alive?
- Do we ever know of this happening? Has it ever been observed?

### 3. *The Law of Genetics*

*Biblical Basis:* Genesis 1 “reproduce after their own kind.” 1 Corinthians 15:39

*Questions for Evolutionist:*

- Do you have any evidence that one species has ever given birth to a new species and the new one actually began to reproduce?
- Can you site natural mutations that were beneficial to the off-spring?

#### 4. *The First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics*

*Definition: "Matter is being neither created nor destroyed, and all things tend toward disorder and disunity."*

*Biblical Basis:*

Genesis 2:1 "The heavens and the earth were completed."

Genesis 3:14-21 God's curse on the earth

*Questions for Evolutionist:*

- Evolution teaches a progression from simplicity to complexity, but the Laws of Thermodynamics (and, indeed, all we observe) show us that everything is becoming more disordered. How do you explain this discrepancy?
- "Genetic entropy" demonstrates that the gene is deteriorating in the same way as entropy operates in the physical world. How can evolution be possible in light of genetic entropy?

#### 5. *The Fossil Record*

*Biblical Basis:* Genesis 6-8 The Flood of Noah

*Questions for Evolutionist:*

- How do you account for complex forms of life being found in the supposedly oldest layers in the geological column?
- Why, after 150 years of searching, have evolutionists not found one single genuine transitional link in the fossil record?

#### **Application**

*"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." (Revelation 4:11)*

*"...worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea." (Revelation 14:7)*

*"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. (John 4:23)*

- SESSION 4 -

# God Communicates to us Through the Bible

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)*

*But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:20-21)*

*Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth. (John 17:17)*

We believe the Bible to be:

## 1. Inspired by God

Although God used men to write the Bible (2 Peter 1:19-20), their words were "-----" (2 Timothy 3:16).

**2. Inerrant:** Without errors in the ----- text.

*Inerrancy claims...*

- The original text was without error.
- All Scripture (as opposed to just certain parts) is without error.
- To apply only when the Scripture is interpreted properly.

*Inerrancy does not claim...*

- To apply to copies or translations.
- Absolute precision.

## *Amazing Evidence for the Bible*

There are only about 25 books in the world that make claim to being the word of God. While the following points don't conclusively prove the Bible is the word of God, they certainly fulfill some of the expectations one would expect from a book that really was God's word.

### **1. The Bible is the Most Unique Book Ever Written**

It's \_\_\_\_\_ authorship and \_\_\_\_\_ message

- Written over a 1,500 year time span
- Written by over 40 authors from many walks of life: kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, businessmen, soldiers, even a tax collector!
- Written in a variety of places from a king's palace to a prisoner's dungeon
- Written on three continents
- Written in three different languages (OT in Hebrew, some Aramaic; NT in Greek)
- Written during moods of joy and despair

And although it addresses the most controversial of subjects, it speaks with an amazing *unity* and *conformity*. Could this happen without the guidance of God?

### **2. The Bible is unique in circulation**

### **3. The Bible is unique in translation**

### **4. The Bible is unique in its survival**

### **5. The Bible is unique in its effect on the world**

### **6. The Bible is unique in archaeological confirmation**

### **7. The Bible is unique in fulfilled prophecy**

### **8. I personally believe the Bible to be God's word because I've \_\_\_\_\_ it!**

- SESSION 5 -

# Seven Questions Skeptics Ask About the Bible

Q. *Isn't the Bible just a book of myths?*

A. The Bible presents itself as a book of \_\_\_\_\_ with real dates, times, people and places.

Disciples claimed to be eyewitnesses (Acts 1:3, 2:22, 2 Peter 1:16, 1 John 1:1-4).

A. \_\_\_\_\_ spoke of “mythological” events as facts

- Adam and Eve (Matthew 19:4-5)
- Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 11:23-24)
- Jonah and the whale (Matthew 16:4)

Q. *There are so many interpretations of the Bible, what makes you think yours is right? The question is also asked in this way: “You don't take the Bible literally, do you?”*

A. There is \_\_\_\_\_ interpretation and God expects us to diligently seek it and to find it (2 Peter 1:20-21).

A. The Bible usually makes it \_\_\_\_\_ when it is using allegory, parable or other forms of speech that aren't to be understood literally.

Q. *The New Testament wasn't written down until hundreds of years after Jesus lived.*

A. Although the 27 books of the New Testament were not \_\_\_\_\_ into one book until the third or fourth century, all four gospels were written 15 to 60 years after the death of Christ.

Q. *How could fallible men write an infallible book?*

A. Fallible men do things \_\_\_\_\_ all the time. Just because people are imperfect that does not mean everything a person does is filled with error.

Q. *The Bible has been translated and retranslated so many times, who knows what the original said?*

(Example: Kids playing telephone)

A. We have approximately 5,500 of ancient Greek manuscripts (full or in part), the oldest of which dates to approximately 120 AD.

A. The translation process was very tedious and \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Much of the New Testament (over 86,000 citations) can be reconstructed from the writings of the early church \_\_\_\_\_.

**Q. *How can you believe the Bible when it is full of errors and contradictions?***

A. Which ones \_\_\_\_\_ you?

Resource: When Critics Ask by Norm Geisler

A. Three important words to understand:

1. \_\_\_\_\_: saying that both a and non-a in the same context are both true.
2. \_\_\_\_\_: two statements which may appear to be contradictory, but which actually complement each other.
3. \_\_\_\_\_: a truth about God that our finite minds cannot comprehend.

*Important: Never let what you don't understand about the Bible cause you to doubt what you do understand!*

**Q. *How can you believe in the Bible when modern science has proven it to be wrong?***

A. The Bible is not \_\_\_\_\_ a book of science, but where it speaks of science, it is true. There is no scientific fact that is at odds with the Bible.

A. The founders of most modern scientific disciplines were Christians who actually saw a great \_\_\_\_\_ between science and the Bible.



## **Christian Scientists and the Disciplines they Established<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Antiseptic Surgery</i>	Joseph Lister
<i>Bacteriology</i>	Louis Pasteur
<i>Calculus</i>	Issac Newton
<i>Celestial Mechanics</i>	Johann Kepler
<i>Chemistry</i>	Robert Boyle
<i>Comparative Anatomy</i>	Georges Cuvier
<i>Computer Science</i>	Charles Babbage
<i>Electrodynamics</i>	James Clerk Maxwell
<i>Electromagnetics</i>	Michael Faraday
<i>Electronics</i>	Ambrose Fleming
<i>Entomology of Living Insects</i>	Henri Fabre
<i>Galactic Astronomy</i>	William Herschel
<i>Genetics</i>	Gregor Mendel
<i>Gynecology</i>	James Simpson
<i>Hydrography</i>	Matthew Maury
<i>Isotopic Chemistry</i>	William Ramsey
<i>Natural History</i>	John Ray
<i>Oceanography</i>	Matthew Maury
<i>Paleontology</i>	John Woodward
<i>Pathology</i>	Rudolph Virchow
<i>Physical Astronomy</i>	Johann Kepler
<i>Systematic Biology</i>	Carolus Linnaeus
<i>Thermodynamics</i>	Lord Kelvin
<i>Vertebrate Paleontology</i>	Georges Cuvier

<sup>1</sup> *The Biblical Basis of Modern Science* by Henry Morris (page 463 – 464)

## Questions Posed by the *New Atheists*

Inspired by the likes of Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, the “New Atheists” attack the Bible as a book advocating

- Hatred of homosexuals
- Oppression of women
- Ownership of slaves
- Genocide of non-Jewish peoples.

There are 31,103 verses in the Bible. To emphasize about 10 of these verses taken out of their Old Testament context in order to portray the Bible in this way really is both evil and fundamentally dishonest on a very deep level. People who do this display arrogance by judging God and His Word which is simply astounding.

Jesus told us that God reveals spiritual truths to those who come to Him with a humble, trusting, childlike attitude and that He hides his truth from arrogant know-it-alls (Matthew 11:25-27). Therefore, it is almost always futile to argue, debate or even discuss these verses with someone who has such a proud attitude. It is also incredibly dangerous and foolish to allow such a person to teach you the Bible (e.g. a Survey of the Bible course in college).

Wisdom Insight: When you talk to someone who has a terribly distorted and evil view of God, it tells you something about that person. Psalm 18:25-26 tells us:

*With the kind You show Yourself kind;  
with the blameless You show Yourself blameless;  
With the pure You show Yourself pure,  
and with the crooked You show Yourself astute.*

Therefore, when talking with such a person, seek to discover and focus the discussion on the real reason for their twisted understanding. Discover their sin issue, call them to repentance and show them how they can find salvation and new life in Jesus Christ. This is the true message of the Bible and this addresses the real need in their life.

## How to Interpret / Apply the Old Testament Law

The Old Testament contained three types of Law that had specific application:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Law that commanded people not to mistreat others
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Law that pertained to the Jewish people in their worship of God
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Law that gave criminal sanctions and punishments in the nation of Israel

### Application Today

1. The moral laws still apply to us \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In Acts 15 (and amplified in the writings of Paul, especially the book of Galatians), the Apostles taught that \_\_\_\_\_ who come to Christ are not under the Old Testament Jewish ceremonial laws.
3. Romans 13:1-7 and Matthew 22:21 teach us that we are to follow the civil laws of the nation in which we \_\_\_\_\_.

# Build Your Life on God's Word

## Ten Benefits of God's Word in Your Life

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua 1:8
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 1:2-3
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Timothy 3:16-17
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 10:17
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 15:4
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 119:98-100
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 20:32
8. \_\_\_\_\_ 1 John 2:14
9. \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Timothy 1:5
10. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 19:11

## Key Attitudes Toward the Bible

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Peter 2:2
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 66:1-2
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 119:72
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 4:2
5. \_\_\_\_\_ John 14:21, James 1:22, Luke 8:18

## How to Learn the Word of God

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:42
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 1:3
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Peter 3:2, Psalm 119:11
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Timothy 2:15, Ezra 7:10
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua 1:8

## Applications

1. Embrace the Bible as the Ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ in your life.

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
and He will make your paths straight.  
Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.”  
Proverbs 3:5-7*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ to feeding your soul with Scripture every day.

*“It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that  
proceeds from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)*

Wisdom Insight: How much time do I need to spend in the Word?

...As long as it takes to transform my mind so that I won't be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2).

- SESSION 7 -

# Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of the World

## **The Extraordinary Claims Jesus Made about Himself:**

- He was the only true Son of God (John 3:16).
- He and the Father are One (John 10:30).
- He gives a person eternal life (John 4:14).
- He gives a person abundant life (John 10:10).
- He is our eternal Judge (John 5:22-24).
- He is the light of the world (John 8:12).
- He is the only way to reach God (John 14:6).
- He gives peace in bad circumstances (John 16:33).
- He is “the Truth” (John 14:6).
- He has the power to forgive sins (Mark 2:1-12).
- He is the resurrection and life, all who believe in Him will rise again (John 11:25).
- He is the Good Shepherd who lays His life down for His sheep (John 10:11).

## The Extraordinary Evidence to Support those Claims

### 1. *He fulfilled Messianic* \_\_\_\_\_.

- Born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1
- Preceded by Messenger. Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:1-2
- Enter Jerusalem on Donkey. Zechariah 9:9, Luke 19:35-37
- Betrayed by a Friend. Psalm 41:9, Matthew 10:4
- Sold for 30 pieces of silver. Zechariah 11:12, Matthew 26:15
- Money thrown in God's house. Zechariah 11:13, Matthew 27:5
- Silent before accusers. Isaiah 53:7, Matthew 27:12-19
- Crucified with thieves. Isaiah 53:12, Ps 22:16, Matt 27:38

**Odds of this happening by chance:**

**1 in 100,000,000,000,000 !!!**

### 1. *He performed astonishing* \_\_\_\_\_.

*Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM." And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me." (Matthew 11:1-6)*

### 2. *He voluntarily laid down his* \_\_\_\_\_ *for others.*

### 3. He physically \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.

#### Four Undeniable Facts:

1. A man named Jesus lived.
2. He was crucified and died.
3. He was buried.
4. Three days later, His tomb was \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Possible Explanations:

- He never really \_\_\_\_\_.
- The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ the body.
- His \_\_\_\_\_ stole the body.

#### The Evidence (Acts 1:3 “Many convincing proofs)

- Jesus appeared ...
  - To over 500 people at once
  - At least 10 different times
  - In numerous settings
- His disciples turned from \_\_\_\_\_ to courageous preachers.
- No disciple ever \_\_\_\_\_ his eyewitness account of the resurrection.

### Conclusion

If historical events are determined to have happened based on

- Reliable eyewitness accounts
- People of integrity
- People who faced genuine cross examination,

**then the EVIDENCE says  
Jesus Christ rose from the dead!**



- SESSION 8 -

## Tough Questions about Jesus

**Q. Wasn't Jesus just a "good teacher"?**

A. In light of what He taught, He was either \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_.

*"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is poached egg – or else he would be the devil of hell. You must take your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse."*

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

**Q. What about those who never hear about Jesus?**

1. Jesus and the apostles taught that He was the \_\_\_\_\_ way to get to heaven.

*"No one comes to the Father but through Me." John 14:6*

*"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12*

2. Jesus is the only way to be saved because He alone \_\_\_\_\_ the basic problem of our sin.

*"Christ also died for sins, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order that He might bring us to God. 1 Peter 3:18*

3. God loves people and moves heaven and earth to reach them with the \_\_\_\_\_.

- The Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8:26-39
- Cornelius, Acts 10

4. God \_\_\_\_\_ himself to all people through creation and conscience.

Romans 1:20

Romans 2:12-16

5. God sovereignly assures that people will be born in the right \_\_\_\_\_ and right \_\_\_\_\_ to find Him.

*“and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” (Acts 17:26-27)*

Note: No one goes to hell because of \_\_\_\_\_.

They go to hell because they are \_\_\_\_\_ who have never been saved.

**Q.** *What about those who lived before Jesus?*

A. They were saved through \_\_\_\_\_ in God and looked forward to God providing a \_\_\_\_\_ atonement.

- Adam, Genesis 3:21
- Abraham, Genesis 15:6

- Q. *You mean to say that an atheist or person of another religion who lives a good life will go to hell, but a mass-murderer who believes in Jesus will go to heaven?*
- A. A person does not get to heaven by being good enough but by being \_\_\_\_\_. All people have sinned and are, therefore, under God's condemnation. Whether a person needs to be forgiven for a lot of sins or a fewer number of sins, still, the only way to heaven is to be forgiven.

*"Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound" (Romans 5:20)*

*"He who is forgiven much loves much." (Luke 7:37)*

- SESSION 9 -

# Jesus Christ: The Hope of the World

Matthew 16:13-28

Life's most important question?

Christ = Anointed One

Peter: Petros = a stone

Rock: Petra = a large rock

Church: Ekklesia = to call out from

What is "the Rock" upon which the Christian church is built?

The call to those who name the Name of Christ: \_\_\_\_\_

(vs 24)

*Why should I take up my cross and follow Jesus?*

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ my life for something eternally valuable (vs 25-26)
2. So Jesus will not be \_\_\_\_\_ of me (Mark 8:38)
3. Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ us according to what we do (vs 27)
4. Because Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 16).

- SESSION 10 -

# Truth, Education, and Morality

*We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience.*  
2 Corinthians 10:5.

## **True or false:**

Public education in American is religiously neutral.

*"I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being. these teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanists values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level – preschool day care or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new – the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism... It will undoubtedly be a long, arduous, painful struggle replete with much sorrow and many tears, but humanism will emerge triumphant. It must if the family of humankind is to survive."*

J. Dunphy, "A Religion for a New Age," *The Humanist*, Jan-Feb 1983 23, 26

## **Secular Humanism** *(on campus, the Secular Student Alliance)*

### **Humanism**

- There is no reason to live as if God \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 14:1).
- We must save \_\_\_\_\_ through education and knowledge (Prov 3:5-8).
- The world was not \_\_\_\_\_ but it evolved (Hebrews 11:3).
- Morals are relative – that each person has the right to \_\_\_\_\_ for themselves what is right and wrong. This is especially true in sexual behavior (Exodus 20).
- Government control is the tool to change humanity and to change the world; in a one-world government \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 11).
- Christians are dangerous and thwart the \_\_\_\_\_ of humankind (Matthew 5:13-14).

### **Post Modernism**

Absolute truth does not exist; our understanding of truth is formed by our cultural experience, and therefore, truth is a matter of our personal perception.

### **Multiculturalism, Diversity, Tolerance**

All ideas and lifestyles are equally valid and legitimate. It would be wrong to contend that one is better than another.

Therefore, the cardinal doctrine of atheists and secularists is:

“Thou shall not judge!”

### **Are Christians to judge? What did Jesus mean when He said to not judge?**

*“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:1-3)*

Christians believe \_\_\_\_\_ does exist

**Truth:** Conformity to that which is factual and real

- God's wrath is kindled against those who \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. (Romans 1:18-19)
- His truth sets people \_\_\_\_\_. (John 8:31-32)
- Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. (John 1:17, John 14:16, Colossians 2:3)

When people talk about "my truth," they are establishing \_\_\_\_\_ as the basis of what is "factual and real."

However, \_\_\_\_\_ must be the basis for all reality. The one and only "I AM WHO I AM" is God, not us! (Exodus 3:14)

### *Knowing Right from Wrong*

Absolute \_\_\_\_\_ and absolute \_\_\_\_\_ are directly related.

God's commandments are not arbitrary but are given in \_\_\_\_\_ and a desire for us to reflect His \_\_\_\_\_.

*"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27)*

*"Because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.""*  
(1 Peter 1:16)

*"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)*



## *The “Five P’s” of Moral Absolutes*

### **1. Precept:**

The commandments, rules, regulations and requirements given by God in Scripture

### **2. Principle:**

The norm or standard behind a precept. Explains why a precept is given

### **3. Person:**

God! Every precept ultimately tells us something about God and obedience to them enables us to know Him better (John 14:21)

### **4. Protection:**

Obedience to God’s precepts will keep us from destruction and harm

### **5. Provision:**

Obedience to God’s precepts is the source of genuine life and fulfillment

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)

## *The Ultimate Moral Absolute*

Morals are not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. However, when we are conflicted about which precepts to obey, we must:

1. Obey \_\_\_\_\_ rather than man. (Acts 5:29)
2. Follow the ultimate moral absolute by doing the most \_\_\_\_\_ thing. (Matthew 22:37-40).

<b>Precept</b>	<b>Principle</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Protection</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Modern Violations</b>
<i>You shall have no other gods before Me</i>	Priorities Truth	God is sovereign	Wasted and futile life	True meaning and purpose in life	Multiculturalism, false religions, secularism
<i>You shall not make for yourself an idol</i>	Faith	God is invisible	False and low image of God	Genuine worship	Idols, false religions
<i>You shall not take the Name of the Lord in vain</i>	Reverence	God is holy	God being just like us	Proper respect for God	Cussing, being too “comfortable” with God
<i>Remember the sabbath to keep it holy</i>	Rest	God is in charge	Stress	Peace	Workaholic, laziness, materialism
<i>Honor your father and mother</i>	Authority	God is the ultimate authority	Evil people and temptations	Protection	Rebellion

<i>You shall not murder</i>	Life is sacred	God gives life	Murder, abortion, hatred
<i>You shall not commit adultery</i>	Commitment to purity	God is pure and faithful	Divorce, guilt, STD's, unwanted pregnancy
<i>You shall not steal</i>	Ownership and stewardship of personal property	God is generous and giving	Honest labor
<i>You shall not bear false witness</i>		God is truthful	Theft, cheating, failing to pay taxes
<i>You shall not covet what belongs to your neighbor</i>	Contentment	God is our provider	Lying, gossip, slander
			Lust, materialism, modern advertising

- SESSION 11 -

# What the Bible Says About Sex

1. Sex was created by \_\_\_\_\_ and has specific \_\_\_\_\_  
Genesis 1:27-28, 2:24
  
2. Sex is a \_\_\_\_\_ thing and is \_\_\_\_\_ by God.  
Genesis 1:31, Proverbs 5:15-19
  
3. Sex is to be reserved for \_\_\_\_\_, and God has placed strict \_\_\_\_\_ on our sexual relationships and behavior.  
Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Exodus 20:14

*No adultery:* to defile your marriage bed by sexual relations with anyone other than your spouse

*No fornication:* to dishonor marriage by having sexual relations with someone prior to marriage

*No homosexuality:* to engage in sexual relations with someone of the same sex

*No pornography:* the depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement (Matthew 5:27-28, Job 31:1, 1 John 2:16)

*Lust:* To intensely desire that which is forbidden. To entertain fantasies of forbidden behavior. (Matthew 5:27-28, 1 John 2:16)

## *How far is too far?*

Marriage is a covenant relationship between one \_\_\_\_\_ and one \_\_\_\_\_  
designed to procreate and raise children.

(Genesis 1:27-28, 2:24, Matthew 19:3-6)

## **Books to Help You Stand Firm in the Faith**

*5 Crucial Questions about Christianity, Tom Short*  
*When Critics Ask, Dr. Norman Geisler*  
*When Skeptics Ask, Dr. Norman Geisler*  
*Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions, Greg Koukl*  
*What if Jesus had Never Been Born? Dr. D. James Kennedy*  
*What if the Bible had Never Been Written? Dr. D. James Kennedy*  
*The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel*  
*The New Answers Books 1, 2 and 3, Ken Ham*  
*A Ready Defense, Josh McDowell*  
*The New Tolerance: How a Cultural Movement Threatens to Destroy You, Your  
faith and Your Children, Josh McDowell*  
*Right From Wrong, Josh McDowell*  
*Is God a Moral Monster, Paul Copan*  
*True for You but Not For Me: Deflating the Slogans that Leave Christians  
Speechless, Paul Copan*  
*The Biblical Basis for Modern Science, Dr. Henry Morris*  
*Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds, Dr. Phillip Johnson*  
*Christ Among Other Gods: A Defense of Christ in an Age of Tolerance, Dr. Erwin  
Lutzer*  
*Handbook of Christian Apologetics, Peter Kreeft*  
*Understanding the Times, David Noebel*

## **Websites to Help You Stand Firm in the Faith**

[www.TomthePreacher.com](http://www.TomthePreacher.com)

[www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)

[www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org)

[www.str.org](http://www.str.org)

[www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)

[www.leaderu.com](http://www.leaderu.com)

[www.creationsafaris.com](http://www.creationsafaris.com)

(check out the "what's hot" section and the baloney detector)

## Tom Short

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