

Defend the Faith

- I. I don't believe there is a God. Ps 14:1
 - A. The evidence of creation. Rom 1:18-20, Ps 19:1-2, Isa 6:1-3
 - 1. Design and order.
 - 2. First cause.
 - B. The evidence of science.
 - 1. Scientific laws. (physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics)
 - 2. Second law of thermodynamics.
 - C. The evidence of conscience.
 - 1. Inner sense of right and wrong. Rom 2:14-15
 - 2. Inner sense of higher power, glory, bliss. Ecc 3:11
- II. The Bible was written by man. 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Pet 1:20-21
 - A. The evidence of unity.

The Bible was written over 1500 years by 40 different authors with an amazing unity and without contradiction.
 - B. The evidence of accuracy.

The Bible has never been proved to be wrong in the areas of science or history or any matters it speaks to. Jn 17:17
 - C. The evidence of honesty.

The Bible does not hide the sins and failures of its heroes.
 - D. The evidence of durability.

The Bible cannot be destroyed – it has been tried many times.
 - E. The evidence of divinity.
 - 1. Prophecies fulfilled regarding the birthplace, family, lineage, miraculous life, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ and many others.
 - 2. Power demonstrated in changed lives worldwide.
- III. Why does evil and suffering exist?
 - A. God did not create evil and suffering. Gen 1:31
 - B. Evil began out of free will. Eze 28:12-17, Gen 2:16-17, 3:6
 - C. God created man in His image with the ability to choose. Gen 1:26-27
 - D. God is love and desires to be loved. 1 Jn 4:8
 - E. By allowing evil and suffering God enables us to experience more of His glory. (grace, mercy, comfort, peace, longsuffering, forgiveness, etc.)
 - F. While suffering is never good, God is able to bring good out of it. Rom 8:28, 2 Cor 1:3-4, Heb 4:15-16
 - G. The day is coming when suffering will cease, and God will judge evil. Rev 21:3-4, Heb 9:27, 1 Pet 4:5
- IV. Is Jesus really God?
 - A. Jesus claimed to be God. Jn 8:57-59, 10:30-33
 - B. His miracles and power revealed it. Mark 1:32-34
 - C. His fulfillment of prophecy proved it. Luke 24:26-27
 - D. His sinless life demonstrated it. Luke 23:13-14
 - E. His resurrection assured it. Rom 1:4, Jn 10:17-18

- V. What about other religions?
- A. There is salvation only in the name of Jesus. Acts 4:12, Jn 14:6, 1 Tim 2:3-5
 - B. One's sincere faith may be sincerely wrong. Prov 14:12
 - C. The Bible gives undeniable proof through fulfilled prophecies.
 - D. Jesus is the only religious leader who rose from the dead.
 - E. Only in Christianity does God punish Himself for sin in order to save man from that punishment.
 - F. Only in Christianity is man totally incapable of contributing to his salvation.
 - G. Only in Christianity does God actually dwell in a man. 1 Cor 6:19-20
- VI. What about those who have never heard?
- A. There is salvation only in the name of Jesus. Jn 14:6, Rev 13:8, 20:15
 - B. The church is commanded to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Rom 10:13-15
 - C. The Lord will reveal Himself to those who search for Him. Deut 4:29, Jer 29:13, Acts 10:1-3
 - D. There is evidence for salvation to all who cannot believe. Mt 10:14, 2 Sam 12:23
 - E. Right now, my concern is for you, while you are hearing.
- VII. How do I recognize a false gospel?
- A. Salvation is by faith alone. Faith plus anything is a false gospel. Eph 2:8-9, Rom 6:23
 - B. The Bible is the only authority for salvation. Jn 5:39
 - C. When a religious group follows a human leader, it is false. Jn 10:27-28
 - D. Jesus is fully God and man. Denying this is a false gospel. Col 2:9, 1:19
 - E. When salvation is found only in the group it is a false gospel. Jn 10:16
- VIII. Why are there so many hypocrites?
- A. Hypocrites pretend to be or believe to be something they are not. Not all who think they are Christians are Christians.
 - B. Christians are saved sinners and admit they are.
 - C. The Lord allows false believers to remain in the church but will judge them in the end. Mt 13:40-42
- IX. Isn't Christianity a western religion?
- A. Christianity has its roots in Judaism. It is neither black nor white in its origin but is Jewish.
 - B. Christianity has been spreading from Jerusalem since the beginning of the church. Acts 1:8
 - C. Redeemed souls come from every people group and every corner of the earth. Rev 7:9-10
- X. What if I have committed the unpardonable sin?
- A. The unpardonable sin was attributing the work of the Holy Spirit through Christ to Satan. Mt 12:24, 32
 - B. The unpardonable sin is a complete rejection of the Spirit's work.
 - C. The only unpardonable sin today is the ongoing rejection of the Spirit's work of conviction toward salvation. Jn. 16:8