

Biblical Christianity has real answers for those willing to listen.	1
Biblical Christianity reflects faith in the true God.	2
Biblical Christianity reflects God's self-revelation.	3
Biblical Christianity reflects confidence in God's Word.	4
Some tough issues about God's Word and reading God's Word.	5
Biblical Christianity is about Jesus Christ.	6
Are Christians hypocrites?	7
Does religion hinder morality?	8
Does religion cause or encourage violence?	9
Does Science destroy Christianity?	10
Does Christianity treat women poorly?	11
Is Christianity homophobic?	12
Does Christianity promote slavery?	13
If God is real, why is there so much suffering?	14
Can we really believe in Hell?	15

Michael J. Kruger, <i>Surviving Religion 101</i>	- SR
Paul E. Little, <i>Know Why You Believer</i>	- KWYB
Rebecca McLaughlin, <i>Confronting Christianity</i>	- CC
Rebecca McLaughlin, <i>10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask</i>	- 10Q
Mark Mittleberg, <i>The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask</i>	- QCH
Johnathan Morrow, <i>Questioning the Bible</i>	- QTB
William D. Mounce, <i>Why I Trust the Bible</i>	- WITTB

Study number and additional reading from above sources with chapter noted

1. KWYB-1, SR-2, 3,
2. KWYB-2, SR-3, QCH-1, CC-3
3. KWYB-5, SR-10, QCH-3, CC-3,
4. KWYB-5, 6, SR-10, CC-6, 10Q-5
5. KWYB-6, SR-11, 12, 13, WITTB-3, 4, 5, 7, QCH-3, QTB-6, 7
6. KWYB-4, WITTB-1,2, QCH-4, QTB-2, 10Q-3
7. SR-4, QCH-8
8. CC-4, 10Q-4
9. CC-5, 10Q-5
10. KWYB-9, SR-8, 14, QCH-2, QTB-8, CC-7, 10Q-6
11. QTB-9, CC-8
12. SR-5, QCH-7, QTB-9, CC-9, 10Q-7
13. SR-14, CC-10
14. KWYB-10, QCH-5, SR-7, CC-11, 10Q-9
15. SR-6, QCH-9, 10Q-10, CC-12

Biblical Christianity has real answers for those willing to listen.

How do you think Christians should respond to those who disagree with Christianity?

What kind of limits do you think are appropriate when we answer others?

What do the following passages say about answering others?

Proverbs 26:4-5 -

Proverbs 29:9 -

Proverbs 29:11 -

2 Peter 3:3, 5 -

1 Peter 3:15 -

How does this last passage limit those to whom we give an answer?

How should we view God's Word? Hebrews 4:12

Biblical Christianity reflects faith in the true God.

List three reasons that you personally believe in God. Don't list reasons others tell you that you should believe in God, but why YOU do.

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What are some reasons people claim that belief in God is foolish?

Identify what the following passages say about God's existence?.

Romans 1:19-20 -

Psalms 19:1-4 -

Acts 14:15-17 -

Psalms 90:2 -

Romans 16:26 -

Biblical Christianity reflects God's self-revelation.

List five things you know about God.

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Self-revelation is what one says about themselves.

What does God tell us about Himself in the following passages?

Exodus 34:6-7 -

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Exodus 3:2, 13-14

Isaiah 45:5 -

Isaiah 45:21 -

1 John 4:8 -

Biblical Christianity reflects confidence in God's Word.

If you trust the Bible, list three reasons that you do. If you do not trust the Bible, give three reasons you do not.

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What are some reasons that people claim the Bible is not trustworthy? What have you heard?

What do the following texts say about God's Word?

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:19-21

Deuteronomy 5:22

Jeremiah 51:60

Acts 28:25-26

Some tough issues about God's Word and reading God's Word.

What do the following texts mean?

Isaiah 55:12 -

Psalm 114:4, 6 -

Psalm 19:1 -

Ps. 91:4 -

Why is it important for us to know how to read passages like these?

What does Peter say about Paul's letters? 2 Peter 3:16

What do some people do with Scripture? 2 Peter 3:16, Jude 4

Why do people reject God's truth? 1 Corinthians 2:14

If a person thinks that God's Word does not make sense, how are some ways they may choose to read God's Word?

What do we need so we can read God's Word accurately? 1 Corinthians 2:15

Biblical Christianity is about Jesus Christ.

Who do you think Jesus Christ is?

Was Jesus a real historical person, a legend, a little bit of both?

Read Hebrews 1:8 and identify what Jesus is called.

What did Jesus say about Himself? John 10:30-33

What does John 1:1 say about Him?

How do we know who this “Word” is? John 1:14

What does this verse tell us about Him?

Why is it so important what we think about Jesus? Acts 4:12

Who is Jesus Christ? 1 Timothy 2:5

To do this He must be both

What did He do to become mediator? 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

How are we to respond to this information? Acts 16:31; 10:39-40, 43.

Are Christians hypocrites?

What does it mean to be a hypocrite?

Do hypocrites attend church?

Is that bad?

Why or why not?

What is the real problem with a hypocrite?

How does James 3:8-10 illustrate hypocrisy?

Identify some ways that Jesus described hypocrisy? Matthew 23:1-14

How might the following Scriptures help us think about hypocrisy?

1 Timothy 1:15

1 John 1:8, 10

Psalm 51:1-18 - Note in the heading, David wrote this after he committed adultery with another man's wife and then tried to cover up his sin.

If we avoid church because of hypocrisy, does that mean anything about us? May it affect us?

How should we function toward the church? Ephesians 4:1-3

How should we function toward those outside the Church? Galatians 6:10

Does religion hinder morality?

How would you define morality?

Where did you learn your version of morality?

Have people done horrible things in the name of God or gods?

Can you give an example?

How does the Bible describe people? Psalm 14:1, 3; Genesis 6:5;

What kinds of acts do people do? Romans 3:15-17

What did Jesus say is the source of our problems? Mark 7:21

Is that religion?

Do you every struggle with any of these?

What is the reason we should treat people with dignity? James 3:9

The word New Testament word translated “religion” refers to activities one must or should do to be acceptable before a god. What did James tell us that genuine religion should do? James 1:27

Is that moral or immoral?

While religion is about duty to God, how does Jesus describe us?

John 15:15 -

Hebrews 2:9-11 -

What does Ephesians 5:1-2 use as our motive for proper actions?

Does religion cause or encourage violence?

Have you ever heard of 9/11 and the twin towers, the Crusades, Aztec sacrifices, Boko Haram?

These are examples of violence in the name of religion: Islam, Christianity, Matos Moctezuma. Even Buddhists (often thought to be peaceful) took up arms against Islam in Thailand beginning in 2004.

Have Christians used violence to promote Christian issues?

Has God ever encouraged “violence”?

What does Deuteronomy 13:6-11 encourage?

What did the nations around Israel practice? Deut. 12:31

What would happen to Israel if they did not eliminate these nations? Deut. 12:29-30; Lev. 18:21

What did Israel eventually do? Ps. 106:34-39; Jer. 32:35

What did Jesus teach? Matt. 5:21-24, 38-39

How are we to live? Rom. 12:18-21

So, while God warned Israel against living like the nations around them and charged them with eliminating anything and anyone who encouraged these horrible behaviors, He calls us to not live like the world but to not harm the world. We are called to avoid violence for personal or religious reasons.

What does 1 Peter 2:12 state is our response to the world and what is our goal?

So, should Christianity be associated with violence? Should we pursue violence to advance our aims?

Does Science destroy Christianity?

Does Christianity treat women poorly?

What are some ways that women are mistreated or treated as inferiors?

What do you or others think the Bible or the Church teaches about women?

What do the following Scriptures illustrate? Ex. 15:20;

Jdg. 4:4-6; 5:7;

2 Ki. 22:14;

Isa. 8:3; Lk. 2:36-38; Acts 21:9; 1 Cor. 11:4-5

Let's think about what the New Testament says about women, whether we view these statements as negative or positive.

Gal. 3:28

1 Timothy 2:11-12

Does our understanding of this text change if we learn that the word "silence" means "tranquil" as opposed to being mute, and "permit" means to "turn over to" as in entrusting to one's authority?

1 Corinthians 14:29-35

What is the issue about which Paul calls for silence?

In 14:35, the word "ask" means to ask between equals. How does that affect our understanding?

How does Acts 18:24-26 affect our understanding of a woman's role?

Connect the statements about men (husbands) and women (wives) in Ephesians 5:22, 25.

What does Ephesians 5:21 say about this relationship?

Is Christianity homophobic?

Do you know anyone who claims to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or takes a similar label?

From your interaction, do they appear happy, kind, and can you get along with them?

What are some ways various Christians suggest that we should respond to homosexuals?

What do the following passages say about homosexuality?

Romans 1:25-27

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

In this last text, identify the other types of people mentioned.

What does 1 Corinthians 6:11 say about some Christians?

What is the change and what causes it?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. How should believers respond to people who act unrighteously?

What difference determines how we should relate to people?

Does Christianity promote slavery?

What is slavery?

What do you think about slavery now and in the past?

What do you think the Bible says about slavery?

What do the following texts tell us about slavery and the people of Israel?

Exodus 21:2; Leviticus 25:39-46

What do the following texts tell us about how God expected Israel to behave?

Exodus 21:20, 26; Deuteronomy 5:13-15; 23:15-16

Summarize the Old Testament's instructions about slavery.

What do the following texts tell us about slavery among Christians (New Testament people)?

1 Corinthians 7:20-24

Galatians 3:28

Ephesians 6:5-9

Colossians 4:1

1 Timothy 6:1

1 Peter 2:18

Does this promote slavery?

Biblical Christianity has never been political or national. It exists throughout many cultures and political systems. In nearly every culture or nation, slavery in some form has existed throughout history. The Biblical revelation encourages slaves in those systems about how to respond in a way that honors God. God doesn't even forbid people from owning slaves, but it promotes a better way of treating them that reflects God's kindness. Read Paul's letter to Philemon about a slave named Onesimus.

If God is real, why is there so much suffering?

Relate some time in your life that you have suffered or watched someone close to you suffer.

What did you think and how did you feel about that suffering?

As you look at the world, do you think there is a lot of suffering?

Why do people question God's existence or goodness due to suffering?

According to Genesis 2:15-17, God commanded Adam to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Good describes that which brings wellbeing and evil describes disaster.

Before and after that command, what did God do? Genesis 2:9, 18-25

Who departed from who according to Genesis 3:5-10?

Who caused suffering? Genesis 6:5

How did God "feel" about this (6:6, 11-12)?

Read Judges 2:6-10. What group of people arose?

What began after that time and who was responsible (2:11-19)?

How does Romans 3:9-18 describe people?

Who is responsible for misery and violence?

What will God do in the future? Revelation 21:1-4

Can we really believe in Hell?

The majority of people in America believe in an afterlife and in some form of heaven and hell.

Two thirds of American who believe in an afterlife think they will go to heaven and one half of one percent think they will go to heaven. Most think they are pretty good and better than most people.

What do you think most people think about heaven and hell? What are they like?

What do you think the God's Word says about heaven and hell? Real? State of mind?

If God is love and God is good, why would God send anyone to hell?

In our English Bibles (and they vary) "hell" translates a word "*gehenna*" referring to constantly burning trash heap outside Jerusalem and "*hades*" a place people go to when they die.

What did Jesus think about hell? Matthew 5:21-22, 27-30; 10:28; 23:33; 13:41

From those last verses, what kind of people go to hell?

What do those people think about themselves and what did Jesus say is true of them? Matthew 7:21-26

How does this relate to Paul's statement in Acts 13:44-46?

Compare Acts 13:44-46; John 17:3; and Revelation 20:14-15 to explain who goes to hell.

Identify the types of people who are in the lake of fire. Revelation 21:8

Who gets to go to heaven? Are they good people who have done good things? Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 2 Timothy 1:8-9