

## ***Atheism & Christianity***

### **Key Bible Verse for All Apologetics:**

“but in your \_\_\_\_\_ honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being \_\_\_\_\_ to make a \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone who asks you for a \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in you; yet do it with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,”  
- \_\_\_\_\_ (ESV)

### **Bible Study**

*A fool and his thoughts* Psalms 14:1-7 & 2 Timothy 2:23-26

#### **Psalms 14:1-7**

The fool says in his heart \_\_\_\_\_

How should Christ-followers engage with others who disagree with us theologically?

*“Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”*

**- 2 Timothy 2:23-26**

## Basic Beliefs of Anti-theists

### Categories or divisions under the “atheist” heading

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - one who believes there is no God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - one who believes there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the existence or non-existence of a God.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - one who believes real knowledge is unattainable, knowing with absolute certainty is impossible.

All of these, in one form or another, deny the existence of God. Atheists' basic beliefs can be summed up in three ideas: secular humanism, materialism, and scientism.

\_\_\_\_\_ **humanism** = a philosophy or life stance that embraces human reason, *secular* ethics, and philosophical naturalism while specifically rejecting religious dogma, supernaturalism, and superstition as the basis of morality and decision making.

\_\_\_\_\_ = the doctrine that nothing exists except matter and its movements and modifications.

\_\_\_\_\_ = reality is exhausted by that which can be known by scientific means and so is reducible to purely natural terms.

*While there is a place for apologetics, philosophy and friendly discussion and debate, the starting point with any non-Believer is what we have been discussing throughout this study:*

***In ALL Gospel engagements we don't seek to "win the fight" but to garden the soil of the soul of the person in front of us with the truth and hope that Jesus saves.***

**Always:**

- Pray that God will change hearts
- Be Respectful
- Don't make assumptions
- Ask questions
- Listen
- Seek to understand so you can be understood
- Use the Bible as the bases of Gospel conversations
- Remember the Golden Rule - do unto others as you would have them do unto you. *Don't treat someone in ways you don't want to be treated.*



## Suggested Questions for Atheists

### 1. Basic Questions

- What's easy or difficult to believe about \_\_\_\_\_?
- What do you think about that?

### 2. Understanding Questions

- What is it that makes that hard to believe?

### 3. Clarifying Questions

- What do you think it means to \_\_\_\_\_?
- What do you mean when you say \_\_\_\_\_?

### 4. Possibility Questions

- Have you ever thought about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Do you think it's possible that \_\_\_\_\_?
- What do you think it would be like to experience the freedom and unconditional love of God?

### 5. Logic Questions

- Help me understand \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., how can both these things be true at the same time)?

### 6. Illuminating Questions

- What do you fear might happen if you choose to surrender your life to Jesus?

### Previous Evangelism Tools:

- ★ A Bible Chain to Present the Gospel in the Old Testament
- ★ Share Jesus Without Fear
- ★ 3 Circles Life Conversation Guide
- ★ Steps to Peace with God or The Bridge Illustration

## Supplemental Material

### Websites

- **Christianity Today's Atheism website**  
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/topics/a/atheism/>
- **Perspective cards app by Cru**  
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/outreach-strategies/perspectivecards.html>
- **Penn Jillette YouTube "Gift of a Bible"** Jillette, an avowed Atheist, impacted by man proselytizing him with gift of a Bible  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6md638smQd8>

### Books (*Listed alphabetically*)

- ***Answers to Tough Questions*** by Josh McDowell & Don Stewart
  - A great resource that seeks to answer common questions about Christianity.
- ***The Case for Christ*** by Lee Strobel
  - Accessible overview of an Atheist's journey to dismantle the claims of Christ leading to ultimate faith in Jesus. Written by a former journalist is short, easy to read chapters.
- ***The Case for Faith*** by Lee Strobel
  - As with Strobel's Case for Christ, this book offers easily accessible answers to some of the most challenging objections to Christianity.
- ***Evidence That Demands a Verdict*** by Josh McDowell
  - Set up more like an encyclopedia with short entries that answer questions and objections related to Christianity.
- ***Evidence for Jesus*** by Josh McDowell & Sean McDowell
  - A fresh, more modern presentation of answers to questions and objections related to Jesus and Christianity.
- ***Letters from a Skeptic*** by Gregory A. Boyd & Edward K. Boyd
  - Excellent exchange of letters between a skeptical father and his Evangelical adult son leading to the salvation of the father.
- ***Mere Christianity*** by C.S. Lewis
  - A classic presentation of Christianity by an Oxford English professor, former Atheist who became one of the most prolific writers of the 20th century.
- ***More Than a Carpenter*** by Josh McDowell
  - This modern classic takes the reader on the journey from Atheist skeptic seeking to disprove the claims of Christ to surrender to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

- ***The Reason for God*** by Timothy Keller
  - Quality presentation of the truth of the gospel by an intelligent and trustworthy pastor/theologian who planted a successful church in New York City.
- ***Why I Believe*** by D. James Kennedy
  - This pastor with the heart of an evangelist answers some common objections to Christianity.

## Handouts

1. **4 Ways to Witness to Atheists**  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/four-ways-to-witness-to-atheists>
2. **How to share the Gospel with an Atheist** by Matt Burford  
<https://radical.net/articles/when-you-share-the-gospel-with-an-atheist/>
3. **How to Share the Gospel with An Atheist** By Greg Stier  
[https://gregstier.org/blog-rants-how-to-share-the-gospel-with-an-atheist/?\\_ga=2.66342314.564922237.1615300910-155809818.1615300910](https://gregstier.org/blog-rants-how-to-share-the-gospel-with-an-atheist/?_ga=2.66342314.564922237.1615300910-155809818.1615300910)
4. **How to Move an Atheist/Agnostic to study the Bible by The Disciple-Making Parent**  
[How to Move an Atheist/Agnostic to Study the Bible - The Disciple-Making Parent](https://www.dmkparent.com/how-to-move-an-atheist-agnostic-to-study-the-bible)
5. **Kirk Cameron: From Atheist to Christian** by Scott Gillis  
<https://creation.com/from-atheist-to-christian>

## Apologetics 101: Worldviews I, Concord Church, Jan/Feb 2023

<https://concordchurch.com/groups-and-studies/apologetics/>

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