

# What would *you* ask God?

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How Do I Know You Are Real?

TWO

Why Am I A Sexual Being?

THREE

Is Christianity Tolerant?

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## ONE

# **How Do I Know You Are Real?**

1. How does personal bias influence this discussion?
2. If you believe in God, what has personally convinced you that God is real?
3. What are the most common doubts expressed to you by friends about God's existence?
4. What are the biggest doubts you have regarding God's existence?

### **Read Hebrews 11:1-3 and Genesis 1:1**

5. How does the beginning of the universe indicate the existence of God?

Go through the Kalam Cosmological Argument.

- 1) Premise: Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
- 2) Premise: The Universe began to exist.
- 3) Conclusion: Therefore, the Universe has a cause.

Convinced or not convinced? Why or why not?

6. If Jesus' resurrection happened does it necessarily prove God is real? Why or why not?
  
7. How important is the resurrection to the coherence of Christianity? (1 Corinthians 15:12-15)
  
8. How does Jesus reveal God to us? (1 Corinthians 1:15; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 14:8-11)
  
9. How does personal experience support the idea that God is real? (John 20:24-29)

Write down some remaining questions that you might like answered regarding God's existence.

Pray through the things you've written down/discussed and pursue the answers!

## TWO

# Why Am I A Sexual Being?

1. Is sexual or gender identity my choice? Look at Genesis 1:26-28 and discuss.
2. As Christians, we believe that God created us as bearers of His image and that our bodies, minds and spirits are integrated, and not divorced from one another. Jesus' incarnation - his willingness to become a human being - affirms the importance of our bodies. From this perspective, transgender identity seems to be brokenness - a discord between the physical and the emotional self.

How does the incarnation of Jesus affect the way we understand transgender identity? (Philippians 2:5-8)

3. Look at the two views of gender spectrum below.

### **Christian view of gender spectrum**

Masculine Spectrum: Rough & tough athletic ↔ Loves music & art

Feminine Spectrum: Girly girl ↔ Tomboy

### **The world's view of gender spectrum**



How would you understand these two views? Which one would you agree with and why? Look at Genesis 2:18-25 and Deuteronomy 22:5.

4. If men and women are both made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), then what does that mean for our understanding of who God is? In what way does a man and woman coming together in marriage, give us a better understanding of who God is (Genesis 2:18-25)?
  
5. "To identify people by their sexuality is to reduce people to their sexuality. Every individual is so much more. A person's inherent and undeniable value is rooted in his membership in humanity, not his particularity, sexual or otherwise."<sup>1</sup>

See Galatians 3:26-28 and discuss the above statement.

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<sup>1</sup> From an article by Glenn T. Stanton, called "10 Things I Wish Everyone Knew About the Christian View of Sexuality". <https://www.onfaith.co/onfaith/2014/12/17/10-things-i-wish-everyone-knew-about-the-christian-view-of-sexuality/35500>

### THREE

## **Is Christianity Tolerant?**

1. How would you define the word 'tolerance'? How would you define the word 'truth'?

What do you think is the relationship between 'tolerance' and 'truth'? Does the claim to a particular truth necessarily make a person intolerant or arrogant?

2. "Every religion, even atheism or secularism, claims that their worldview is right and, therefore, those opposed to them are wrong (i.e. every religion claims exclusivity)."

What do you think about that statement?

3. How is Christianity similar to at least one other religion? (i.e. What teachings of the Bible that at least another religion will affirm?)

4. How is Christianity distinct from other religions or worldviews? What does the Bible teach that no other religions will affirm? (Eg: John 1:1-18; John 14:6; John 19:28-30; John 20:11-18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-7, 12-19; Acts 2:36; Acts 4:10-12)

5. Does this distinctness necessarily mean that Christianity is arrogant or intolerant?
  
6. Christianity is centred on the person of Jesus Christ. As someone who claims to be 'the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6), would you characterise Jesus as arrogant or intolerant?
  
7. If you are a Christian, how should you then live out your Christianity in this world in light of what has been discussed?

## FOUR

# **What's The Big Deal About Marriage?**

1. What are some issues that are raised or questions you get asked about marriage?

How do you answer them?

2. How did Jesus answer questions on marriage? (Eg: Matthew 19:4-5, Mark 10:6-8)

3. What are the elements of marriage as God reveals it in Genesis 1:26-2:25?

4. What purpose/s are there for marriage in this passage?

5. What is man's part and what is God's part? Compare Genesis 2:24 with Matthew 19:4-6.



6. What developments of the purposes come in the New Testament?  
(Ephesians 5:25-32)
  
7. How would you answer someone who says “Don’t impose your Christian view of marriage on others”?
  
8. How could a discussion on this question lead to pointing the person to Christ and the good news?

## FIVE

# **Do You Really Hate Gays?**

1. Share with the group what your current thought is with regards to homosexuality?
  
2. Look at the following passages and summarise what the Bible says about homosexuality.
  - a. Genesis 19:1-13 and Jude 5-7
  - b. Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13
  - c. Romans 1:18-32
  - d. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
  - e. 1 Timothy 1:8-11
  
3. Therefore, there are only two options for us with regards to how we use/practice our sexuality. What are they? ((1) Genesis 2:23-25; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; and (2) 1 Corinthians 6:16-20; 1 Corinthians 7:8-9)
  
4. Look at the following objections towards Biblical view of homosexuality. Pick a few of them, and following the principles in 1 Peter 3:15-16 discuss with your group how you would respond to the statement (think of the biblical response, the implication(s) of the statement if it is carried out in our society, etc).
  - a. I am gay because I am born that way. God made me this way. So, it is natural for me to engage in homosexual practices. (Romans 1:26-27)
  - b. Homosexuality is unchangeable. I cannot change who I am. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

- c. The most important thing is love. So, what is wrong if I really love the person? (Romans 13:8-10)
  - d. What is important is our faith in Jesus Christ. So, I can be a Christian and a homosexual, can't I? (Matthew 16:24-26, Galatians 5:13, Romans 6:15-19)
  - e. And other possible objections that you can think of...
5. How do Jesus and the gospel provide hope for those who are struggling with homosexuality? (2 Corinthians 12:9, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 3:23-26, Matthew 16:24-26, Romans 8:18-24, Romans 6:12-14)
6. How can the church community provide a redemptive community for those who are struggling with homosexuality? How can we love our friends who are struggling with homosexuality? (Genesis 1:27, Romans 15:5-7, Galatians 6:1-6, Hebrews 10:19-25, Ephesians 4:15-16, 25, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Matthew 28:18-20)

## SIX

### **Why Don't You End All The Pain?**

1. In your experience, what are the different ways this question/issue is raised? How do you answer?
  
2. What answers did Jesus give to questions on suffering? (Eg: Luke 13:1-5, John 9:1-3)
  
3. What purpose is there in the sufferings of the Christian in these passages:
  - Hebrews 12:1-11
  - 1 Peter 1:3-9
  - James 1:2-4
  
4. The bible looks forward to a painless future for God's people. What are the key features of this as described in Revelation 21:1-8?
  
5. According to 2 Peter 3:8-9, why doesn't God end all the pain now?
  
6. How could a discussion on this question lead to pointing the person to Christ and the good news?