

God needs to prove himself to me before I will believe in him!

God has shown himself to the world through his Son, Jesus Christ, but despite Jesus doing great miracles including bringing dead people back to life, and despite him resurrecting from the dead himself, people still keep disbelieving and demanding proof.

I'm not going to believe in some bearded old man in the sky!

Making God seem silly in your mind, so that you can reject him, is not going to make God disappear. One day you will stand before him to answer for your life.

Science shows that we are just material beings, emerging out of a purposeless (apart from 'survival of the fittest') evolutionary process.

It takes a lot of faith to believe that the cosmos, including complex life, emerged by chance out of nothing.

Evolutionary theory proves that the Adam and Eve story in Genesis is just a fiction.

Faith and Science can never be in conflict. Science makes discoveries about God's creation; Faith speaks of the Creator. If evolutionary theory is true, then this simply shows that the Adam and Eve story has to be understood in light of that.

Science shows that miracles and resurrection from the dead are impossible.

And yet, miracles keep happening in today's world, and the testimony of Jesus's disciples is compelling. Despite Jesus telling them he would die and rise again after 3 days, no way did they expect or believe that this would happen. But their disbelief gave way in the face of

irrefutable evidence as the risen Jesus appeared to many of them over a number of occasions.

If God was real (and all powerful and loving as claimed) he would not allow all the suffering.

Even Christians can struggle to reconcile suffering with belief in a loving powerful God, but if we are going to be free creatures and not robots, this necessarily means we have the freedom to do wrong and hurt others. What God does promise is that he 'works all things for good, for those who love him', and he will one day put an end to all suffering when he creates a new heaven and new earth.

The Bible is human made. It is full of fairytales, and wishful thinking.

40 different authors of the Bible over a 1000 years of history present a coherent consistent message of a loving holy God acting to draw people into relationship with him.

The Bible contains contradiction and error.

The Bible is not first and foremost a history or science book. It is a message from God brought to us by God inspired authors. As such, even if the Bible presents aspects of ancient scientific beliefs (eg a solid dome holding back the waters above – as indicated by the blue sky), and some differences in historical accounts, nevertheless there is nothing in the Bible that would lead us away from the truth God wants us to know. The Bible can be trusted to say what God wants it to say, that we may know him and grow in life with him.

Christians and the church have done a lot of evil through the centuries.

Yes, evil has been done in the name of God, by Christians and those who have called themselves Christians.

Christians are still flawed people, always needing to be forgiven, and always needing to pursue God's power to change them for the better. Even so, right from its beginnings Christianity transformed society in a positive way. The teaching that all people are made and loved by God, and made in his image, led Christians to rescue babies abandoned in dumps, and look after the sick and needy. Over time they were the first to set up hospitals and schools. During the time of the plague in Europe, multitudes of Christians gave up their own lives caring for the sick and dying. It was Christians who initiated the fight to abolish slavery. In today's world most of the top charities are Christian based.

Christians are bigots and haters.

Christians are called to love all people. They understand though that love cannot be disconnected from truth, and because of that will not affirm behaviour, beliefs, attitudes that they believe (on the basis of God's Word) are harmful and destructive. For example, it would not be loving to affirm and support someone's practice of drinking litres of sugar filled soft drink every day, knowing that that will cause diabetes or other major health problems.

There are so many religions. This shows that any religion, including Christianity, is simply a human fabrication that I can ignore.

God made us to be in relationship with him. This means everyone has a spiritual dimension. Over time people have sought to make sense of their life on a spiritual level, and out of this human endeavour various religions have arisen. Christianity makes an exclusive claim. It says it is not a 'religion'. It says it is not just another expression of people's attempts to find God, but is instead all about God finding us. In love, God came down to us, in the person of his Son, to draw us to him. God does what we can't do.

Religion, including Christianity, reflects the pre modern mind. Modern people don't need Christianity to make sense of the world.

The modern view is that science has given us all the answers and we no longer need the idea of 'God' to fill the gaps of human knowledge. But science can only ever explore the physical. It can say nothing about the metaphysical. Yes, human beings are a physical collection of atoms as science has shown, but science cannot say we are no more than that. Nor can science say or prove there is no God.

Religion, including Christianity, is just a crutch used by weak people.

Jesus calls people to deny themselves, pick up their cross, and follow him. He calls people to face up to their own evil and die to their sinful ways. He calls people to not return evil for evil, but to love even their enemies. He calls people to entrust their lives to God and his will, even when it means enduring suffering for his sake, rather than keep themselves safe and comfortable.

Jesus was a good man, but not God, so I can safely ignore him.

Jesus can't just be a good man. He claimed to be God. He's either deluded and a liar, or he is who he says he is.

Maybe Jesus is God, but he's just one among many and I prefer focusing on the other Gods.

There is only one true God, the one whom Jesus makes known. All other gods named are false gods, the result of human construction and demonic deception. Believing in them is just another God avoidance technique.

I am my own God!

We were not made to be gods unto ourselves. If we don't worship the God above us, we will only worship the things beneath us, degrading ourselves. When we don't look to God to bring us life in its fullness, we look to and therefore worship things like money, possessions, food, health, travel, relationships, sex, work, drugs, sport, popularity, knowledge, and religion.

I don't need God to forgive my sin. If God is real he will accept me when I die because I am a good person.

The Bible says no one is good. The Bible says that every human being is fundamentally in rebellion against God and selfishly inclined. As such we cannot make ourselves right with God, and totally need the forgiveness Jesus has gained for us through his death and resurrection.

If God is real he is distant and uninvolved in human affairs. He has left me to run my own life.

God is a personal God who is intricately involved in human affairs. He is the one who sent his Son into the world, and who sends his Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. He cares deeply about us, and seeks to give us abundant life by leading us to put our trust in Jesus, and submit ourselves to his guidance and direction.

I don't know whether there is a God or not, but there is just no way of finding out.

God in his Word says that if we seek him with all our heart we will find him. This is because in his Son Jesus he has made himself known, and wants to make himself known.

