

Bibliology: Defend the inspiration, inerrancy, perspicuity, and authority of Scripture

Definitions:

Inspiration: Scripture is given by God

Inerrancy: Scripture is without errors

Perspicuity: Scripture is clearly and simply written and easily understood

Authority: Scripture is the ultimate and final standard in the life of every person.

1. Why are you making such a big deal out of inerrancy (the idea that the Bible is without errors)? Why does it really matter?
2. Do I have to believe in inerrancy in order to be a Christian?
3. Why do I need the Bible if my church tells me what to believe?
4. You say that only the original autographs are inerrant and we no longer have any of those, but only copies of copies. How can you be so sure what we have now is still inerrant?
5. How can you defend inerrancy when there are obviously so many contradictions in the Bible?
6. The Chicago Statement on Inerrancy (bit.ly/StatementDownload) was not written until 1978. If inerrancy is so important, why did it take nearly 2000 years before Christians wrote a statement about it?
7. You say the Bible was just written by ordinary men. How do you know that it is the "Word of God" and not just the words of those ordinary men?
8. How can you say the Bible is perspicuous (clearly written and easily understood) when it is filled with so many things that are difficult to understand? Why are there so many different interpretations?
9. Why do the genealogies differ in Matthew 1 and Luke 3?
10. Why are some Bibles missing Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53-8:11? Should it or should it not be there?
11. There are many contradictions between the accounts of Judas' death. How can you say the Bible is inerrant with these obvious differences?
12. Why do Genesis 1 and 2 differ in the order in which things were created?

Theodicy: How can there be evil and suffering in the world if God is All-Good and All-Powerful?

1. Why do bad things always happen to good people?
2. If God is perfectly opposed to all evil, then why does God not intervene in the world more often to either prevent or at least reduce it?
3. We know from Job and other people in the Bible that they understood many of their sufferings as being sent by God. Does this not contradict the idea that God is opposed to suffering and death?
4. Why did God put the tree in the garden if He knew Adam and Eve would sin?
5. Is it really fair that we face evil and suffering because of the sin of Adam? Why am I punished for Adam's sin if Ezekiel 18 says we are supposed only to be punished for our own sins?

6. If Heaven is going to be perfect, then why didn't God just create the earth that way instead of allowing evil and suffering?
7. How can you say God is good when He created Hell, where people will suffer forever? Wouldn't God be more loving if He snuffed sinners out of existence, rather than send them to hell?
8. What about those who never have the chance to hear the gospel? What happens to them?
9. What happens to children who die in the womb or very early? What happens to mentally handicapped people who die without believing the gospel?
10. You say God does not cause evil but Isaiah 45:7 says, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things" (KJV) How do you explain this?
11. "Why didn't God prevent the death of my 14-year-old cousin in that car accident?" or "Why didn't God listen to my prayers and heal my friend of cancer?" How would you counsel this person in light of God's goodness and power?

Anthropology: Defend the biblical view of marriage.

1. What are the purposes of marriage? Why is it such a big deal?
2. God allowed polygamy (men with multiple wives) to develop and didn't speak against it. How can you say that you know for sure that one man-one woman is the only marriage that God recognizes?
3. Some people are born with a same-sex attraction. Why do you think they should be doomed to a life of loneliness?
4. The Supreme Court has redefined marriage to allow for same-sex relationships, and they might soon allow for polygamy (multiple spouses) as well. Why do you think you have the right to disagree with the government and force your beliefs instead?
5. Jesus never spoke against same-sex marriage or polygamy. How can you say that these are wrong?
6. Some states recognize "common-law marriage." Why do I have to have a marriage ceremony in order for my marriage to be recognized in God's eyes?
7. Isn't marriage just a human tradition? Why do you care so much about what people outside your church think about it? Why should loving, lifelong, committed adults agree to your narrow view of marriage?
8. Why does sex and living together have to wait until marriage? Wouldn't it be better to make sure we are compatible before entering into marriage?
9. Why is marriage better than staying single? Matt 22:30 teaches that there won't be marriage in heaven—why should I get married instead of staying single here?
10. Can a Christian attend a homosexual, transgender, or polygamous wedding ceremony? How about the reception? Why or why not?
11. Can a Christian attend the wedding between two unbelievers? How about between a believer and an unbeliever?