

Questions: Ray Comfort, *The Angry Atheist Study Guide*, Living Waters Publications, 2018

Thirty-six questions to prompt study of God's word and common arguments brought by atheists against Christianity. Having these answers in mind will make witnessing more fruitful, either to stop the mouth of the scorner, or convict the ungodly of their need for a saviour.

1. An atheist who bemoans the deaths of babies or existence of cancer assumes God created the world "as is" and is therefore evil. The Bible says in Romans 8.23 that "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."
2. People hate the Bible because it is a dire threat to their atheistic worldview; that there is a Creator God to whom they will one day have to give an account for their evil.
3. The claim that the Bible is filled with fairy tales is a light epithet for those who have usually never studied it (the history, science, and prophecy it contains).
4. That God condones rape in the Bible is very common, referring to Deuteronomy 22.28. Verse 26 describes a rape where the [betrothed] damsel had cried out, in which case the man was to be executed. Verse 28 speaks of a non-betrothed virgin and the man laying hold on her, however, it also says they must be found, which implies consensual sex. Given that verse 26 deals with rape, verse 28 cannot also be referring to it.
5. The claim of a genocidal God does not hold where God is meting out punishment for the object of the genocide (i.e., all those having committed at least one sin).

The strongest part of this argument is the death of babies and the unborn. To respond, God can choose to 'kill' a baby for example by withdrawing his sustaining power at anytime (what He gives freely He can take), or choose another method (e.g., death by sword from an invading army).

The atheist could argue under the latter option that God is therefore cruel and unusual in his punishments.

A third option is that God in his infinite foreknowledge knew these babies would inevitably grow up into sinners and be worthy of death, so He was simply sentencing them from His eternal perspective.

6. Every day 150,000 people die. This is staggering and most are going into hell.

7. Witchcraft is a defiling sin, as rebellion, and is not “neutral”.

8. The Bible says in Psalm 7.11 that God is *angry* with wicked, not neutral:

“God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry *with the wicked* every day.”

9. The Bible reveals an omniscient, omnipotent, omnibenevolent, and all-righteous God. None of these attributes can conflict with the other or be separated.

10. Idolatry enables the sinner to live “at peace” with his own god and not feel guilty as he would by believing in the true God.

11. An atheist cannot be a “good” person under their own philosophy where no absolute moral standard can exist. Under a biblical standard they can be, provided their morality aligns with God’s laws.

12. The Bible simply defines good as God (cf. Jesus in Mark 10.18).

13. Good works cannot be admitted as a defense against a crime by an impartial court, because they are unrelated to the offense. These *may* come into play under man’s legal system in sentencing (i.e., giving a lighter penalty for the convicted’s “good character”).

14. The world hates Jesus because He testifies that its deeds are evil (John 7.7).

15. There is hypocrisy in “the Church” for two main reasons:

i. There are many false converts, some more “passive” than others (i.e., “wolves in sheep’s clothing”).

ii. What atheists call “the Church” usually is a reference to the Whore of Babylon, the Roman Catholic Church.

16. “Evolving” texts indicate that the previous forms were imperfect (i.e. not totally reliable), the current form is also imperfect, and that faith must be placed some future unknown form will be perfect (and finally reliable).

17. The Bible actually *punishes* slavery, with death:

Exodus 21.16: “And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.”

18. *The Encyclopedia of Wars* claims 9% of wars in history were caused by religion, the majority of which fro, Islam. Atheists erroneously claim it is closer to 100%.

19. Atheist leaders killed around **100 million** people in the 20thC (Mao ~70m, Stalin ~20m, Hitler ~10m, Pol Pot ~2m, etc.).

20. A rapist must not marry his victim because the verse quoted by atheists (Deuteronomy 22.28) is doubtful as to whether it is rape. In the context of rape addressed in verse 25, verse 28 must be a consensual act.

21. Atheists using “creation” are implying a creator exists, however, there whole foundation is belief that no creator exists. They are being hypocritical.

22. The universe cannot be eternal if the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics are true. The second means energy everywhere is becoming unusable as temperature gradients between atoms and molecules disappear across the universe.

The first means there is no new matter or energy being created to replace this ‘entropy’.

Together, if the universe was eternal, it would already be in a state of “heat death”.

23. Nature (in fact nothing) can self-create if it had an origin in time.
24. Romans 1.20 says all know there is a creator because of the things that are seen have been made.
25. Jesus gave the rich young ruler five of the Ten Commandments as a test. He then gave him the first commandment which he stumbled at because his true god was Mammon.
26. The Ten Commandments address a man's conscious, or what is written in his heart. Romans 2.15 says:
- “Which shew the work of the **law** written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)
27. Romans 8.7 teaches that an atheist's mind hates God and will never submit to His law (because he is in rebellion).
28. Without God and the Ten Commandments man has either a false morality from a substitute religion/god[s], or creates a relative system of morality.
29. The saying “up the river **Niagara** without a paddle” means being without a viable alternative.
30. When Jesus proclaimed “it is finished” on the cross in John 19.30, the work he had to do to pay for the sin of the world on the cross was completed.
31. Removing sins “as far as the as is from the west” is a picture of infinite forgiveness. Incredibly, one can travel in an easterly direction and never ed up travelling in a westerly direction. However, eventually after travelling north one will reach the north pole and then have to continue south!
32. Ignorance of the law is no excuse as a fundamental legal principle to hold all to account equally (otherwise inequitable concessions would have to be made).

33. Just means infallibly right, the basis from which justice can be meted out to a criminal.

34. The atheist cannot appeal to absolute morality without a supernatural agency who has absolute standards.

35. Three of God' fearful judgements were Noah's flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the destruction of Jerusalem and carrying away of Israel into Babylon.

36. André's response was one of self-justification and pride in not admitting he was wrong, however, the other young man was receptive to the truth.