

# Questions From An Atheist

## Can I Ask That In Church? - Part 1

May 7, 2023

*Besides the Bible, what proof is there for God and Jesus?*

*How can you believe in a religion that has done so much evil?*

*How can a good God allow bad things to happen?*

*Besides the Bible, what proof is there for God and Jesus?*

**The Law of Cause and Effect: For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction (Newton's Third Law)**

1. Whatever begins to exist must have a cause for its existence.
2. The universe (time, space, matter) began to exist.
3. Therefore, the universe must have a cause for its existence.
4. That cause must be:
  - a. Spaceless because it created space
  - b. Timeless because it created time
  - c. Immaterial because it created matter
  - d. Powerful because it created something out of nothing
  - e. Intelligent because the universe is precisely designed
  - f. Personal because it made a choice to create nothing into something
5. Can you think of anything or anyone that fits that description?

**The Transcendental Argument: Universal laws of logic, morals and science require a transcendent source.**

**The Law of Teleology: when an object has a purpose, goal, or design, it must have had a designer.**

Microevolution is evolutionary change within a species over a relatively short period.

Macroevolution is evolutionary changes in large and complex ways, such as new species formation.

**Did you know that there are multiple non-Christian ancient historical records that reference Jesus? (Tacitus, Josephus, Pliny the Younger, and more...)**

**If Jesus didn't exist, where did those come from?**

**What about the Bible? If it's fictitious then how does this ancient text have historically verifiable names, places, events, and archaeology? How does it contain such powerful moral teaching? Most importantly, how has it changed my life and the lives of so many others?**

*How can you believe in a religion that has done so much evil?*

**The problem is NOT that they were being too much like Jesus but too little like Jesus!**

Mahatma Gandhi: I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.

**Christians will fail you. Consider Jesus, though. He never will.**

***How can a good God allow bad things to happen?***

**Love requires free will and choice.**

**Evil in the world does not come from God. It comes from us. And I need only look in the mirror to prove my point.**

**Do you really want to know the truth?**

**If there was evidence for Jesus, would you want to know?**

**Would you examine the evidence for yourself?**

**Luke (NLT)**

*“Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. <sup>2</sup>They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. <sup>3</sup>Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>so you can be **certain of the truth** of everything you were taught.” Luke 1:1-4 (NLT)*

**“More Than a Carpenter” by Josh McDowell**

**To The Church:**

**Brennan Manning: The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.**

*“<sup>15</sup>... And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup>But **do this in a gentle and respectful way**. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.” 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)*

**Recommended resources:**

- More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell
- GotQuestions.org
- CrossExamined.org and on YouTube
- CARM.org (Christian Apologetics Research Ministry)