

Five sample Questions

To understand worldview better

- Note, the questions should be less direct, more vague (so as to prevent feelings of uneasiness) if your contact is a stranger, or the relationship is strained. It helps to be more specific and direct (in a kind and gentle way) if you know the person better and the relationship is firmly established.
- Preface: the following questions are dichotomous (an “either / or”) construction. It is understood that in real life, these scenarios are not necessarily dichotomous, but they are being raised as such merely to better understand our colleagues/friends/family.
- You are welcome to adjust, reword or replace these questions with ones you feel would be better suited to your conversation. it at all possible, ask questions that relate in some way to your previous dialogue, or to a previous topic in your current conversation.



Questions to try

Feel free to modify, personalise or generalise...

- If you had to suddenly evacuate your house within 30 minutes, and could only take what you can fit in a small car, what would be the most important items you would attempt to take with you? (If they pick family and pets, affirm this, and ask about other things they value.)
- If starting this next week, you could choose between having a dream job (what is it?) or the ability to retire (and be financially secure) which would you prefer?
- If you were given the choice to have a beer (glass of wine or a coffee perhaps for some ladies) with your mates, or alternatively, receive a glowing compliment from your boss (or someone in authority over you in some way) which would you prefer?
- Would you be willing to steal something (even if it was insignificant in value to the owner, a bit like Robin Hood perhaps) in order to help someone you care about, would you do it?
- Would you rather have a reputation for being an honest man/woman or would you rather have a fling with your favourite celebrity?

Ask questions, you don't have any need to answer any, unless you assert something, which is generally unhelpful until very late in a relationship/discussion

- The purpose of the above questions is not to judge or to criticise, but to glean their values. Once you have an idea of their values (ie what things are important to them, how they see morals and ethics, their view of physical intimacy and mateship, their relationship to authority figures... then you are well placed to design a strategy to bridge the gap from the offers of Jesus to their present perception of their “heaven on earth.” If you are then able to demonstrate to their satisfaction a better heaven than the one they dream of, then you may have a “client” for the kingdom.

Burden of Proof (aka Hitchen's Razor)

Think of a time you heard a claim that sounded a little too hard to believe...

World Series
World



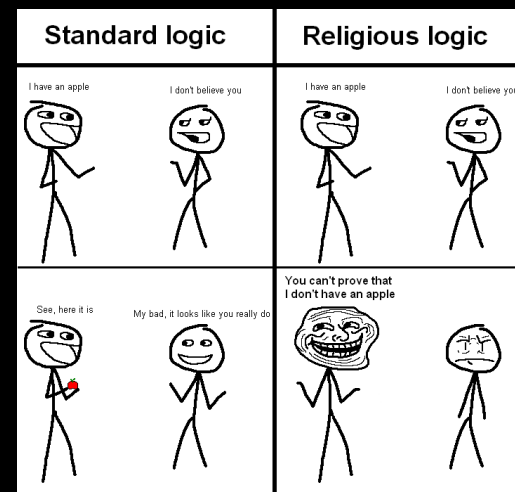
World's best...

How trusting are you when someone makes a big claim, like “World’s best dad” or “World’s best fireworks” or world’s best (fill in the blanks).

Are you sceptical too? We want proof right? Christianity sounds far-fetched to a closed mind too, and despite the clarity in Romans, people need some help to reconsider.



Source: ABC



Source: Paul Kimball online blog “The Other Side of Truth”

Smuggled conclusions

Listen very carefully

Examples?

- “I can’t believe an intelligent person would take the bible as a literal historical document. What evidence is there for the resurrection of Jesus?”
- “Christians are so bigoted, why are you against marriage equality?”
- Can you think of any examples?

- Personal story - dead sea scrolls discussion with Anaesthetist
- CHIP programme info session at RFDS Base

Anti-christian views have a lot of explaining to do, non-christians may frequently assume that christianity has a lot of explaining to do

Good teacher, what must I do? (Luke 18:18)

Jesus: why do you call me good? (v19)

Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise;
When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.
(Prov 17:28)

Don't do this...

- Connect dots or try to make sense of the other view yourself.
- Don't assume their point of view is coherent.
- Don't look for ways to sympathise with the logic or the reasoning of any non-biblical viewpoint.
- Don't get defensive, resist the urge to protect your dignity etc, focus on the stated argument. (It doesn't matter what I think)

Instead, do this...

- Make a mental note to distinguish people and their feelings from their actions and logic.
- Look for ways to affirm people (without invoking their views).
- Learn their values and their logic as carefully as you can.
- Use their logic and values to explore a topic which will lead you to salvific significance.
- Pick your battle, stay there, avoid all other “red herrings.”
- “Leave a stone in their shoe”

Questions to ask

- “How did you come to that conclusion?”
- Ask for specifics (which experts?)
- What topics can we defend, which ones should we seek to divest?
- (Pick your specialty)
- Ie -Christians start wars
- The Bible is not reliable
- Evolution
- Evidence for the resurrection
- Moral argument (or ontological, cosmological, etc)



“New” Atheism

Organised religion is an enemy of society to be destroyed

Key advocates: The “Four Horsemen” (borrowing from Revelation 6)

- Daniel Dennett: Philosophy of mind (Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomena)
- Sam Harris: Moral ethics (“Open Letter to a Christian Nation” & “The Moral Landscape”)
- Christopher Hitchens: Philosophy or Religion/Politics- “Hitchens Razor” (popularised “Burden of Proof” concept)
- Richard Dawkins: evolutionary biologist - “The God delusion.”
- Ayaan Hirsi Ali (“plus one horse-woman”)

Not covered in presentation tonight