

Questions for Lesson 1 – Introduction

1. Why is quoting the Bible not a valid way to convince an atheist that there is a God?

ANSWER: If there is no God, then the Bible is just a collection of ancient myths - of no use in proving anything. Passages like Romans 10:17 are not dealing with the existence of God, but with the validity of the gospel - a different topic.

2. Why do people have different belief levels, and why do those levels change?

ANSWER. How we were raised, the loss of loved ones, hypocrisy in the lives of people who claim to be Christians, peer pressure, the attractiveness of immorality.

3. What is science?

ANSWER. Factual information as opposed to intuition. Knowledge that can be tested and falsified so an experiment can verify it.

4. What is “bad science.”

ANSWER. Something which cannot be tested or falsified and yet is presented as truth.

5. Why is it that science and the Bible cannot conflict?

ANSWER. If God created the creation and if God gave us the Bible the two of them have the same author and they cannot conflict. If they conflict we have bad science or bad theology or both.

6. Why can you not absolutely prove there is a God?

ANSWER. Absolute proof demands the use of senses that are not available when talking about a spiritual being. The same problem occurs in quantum mechanics or psychology. Faith would not exist if there were absolute proof.

7. Why is there a need to engage in this kind of study?

ANSWER. The first reason is to counteract the flood of atheistic material circulated around us. The second reason is to be able to give an answer for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15). The third reason is to boost our own faith and give us confidence.

8. What are the different definitions of “nothing” given by atheists and believers.

ANSWER. Some point out that if you combine matter and antimatter that they destroy each other producing nothing. That isn't true because energy is released (which is something). Others equate nothing to a vacuum, but there can be light in a vacuum. The true meaning of nothing would be that there is no time, space, matter, or energy of any kind. There would be absolutely nothing.

9. What destructive view do some preachers and some scientists take concerning the relationship of faith and science?

Answer: That they are opponents or antagonists and that a person has to choose between faith and science.

10. Why is this view destructive?

Answer: Because capable people are kept out of science or religion because of it. Also because it breeds an atmosphere of hostility and suspicion.