

Christianity and Hot Button Issues

Biblical and Cultural Challenges Christians Must Face

1. How do we Discuss Hot Topics?

How to discuss hot topics with family and friends while maintaining our Christian witness. How to spot confirmation bias, gaslighting, framing, and other logical fallacies. How to speak with integrity and grace without compromising truth and convictions.

2. Can We Trust the Bible?

Isn't the Bible full of errors? Hasn't it changed over time? Do we know where it came from?

3. Are Truth and Morality Relative?

Christians are just trying to use the legal system to legislate *their* morality. Living in a post-Christian world means truth and morality is whatever people determine it is.

4. Doesn't Science and the Bible Conflict?

What should we make of evolution, intelligent design, climate change, environmentalism, etc.?

5. Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?

Science shows miracles like this don't just happen. It shows that Christianity's view of faith is belief in things that are irrational and can't be proven wrong.

6. Wasn't Jesus just a Man?

Didn't Christians just make up the idea of God? Does it even matter that Jesus is God?

7. How do we Navigate Church and State?

Separation of church and state: when are Christians and the church to speak and act on political and cultural issues? When do we submit to government and when do we engage in civil disobedience?

8. What's Wrong with Black Lives Matter?

What is wrong with Black Lives Matter, Critical Race Theory, and the cancel culture? All white people are inherently racist and must now defer to all people of color and other marginalized peoples.

9. What's Wrong with LGBTQ+?

Why do Christians have difficulty with LGBTQ+? Don't people have the right to define their own identity and love whomever they want?

10. What about Pro-abortion Arguments?

Christians have no business telling other people what to do with their bodies.

11. Is Psychology Okay?

Should Christians use psychology to solve their problems? Hasn't secular psychology proven to help people where the Bible cannot?

12. Is Capitalism Better than Socialism?

Doesn't capitalism help the rich and hurt the poor? Doesn't socialism help those who can't help themselves?

13. Aren't Christians Judgmental and Hypocritical?

Why is it that Christians often act no better than anyone else and yet have the audacity to judge everyone else?

14. Is Hell Unjust?

Why would a just and loving God send people to hell? The idea of everlasting conscious torment is a heinous belief.

15. Aren't All Religions the Same?

What makes Christianity any different than other religions? Aren't all religions basically good and help people get to the same good place in the end?

16. Can we Make a Difference?

What can we do to make a difference in our family, church, culture, city, and nation concerning the hot button issues we have discussed these last 15 weeks?

General Resources:

- Mark Mittelberg, *The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask: (With Answers)*. Covers many of the topics we will touch on in the class. Some chapters better than others.
- Erwin Lutzer, *We Will Not Be Silenced*. Covers many of the topics we will touch on in the class.
- Erwin Lutzer, *No Reason to Hide*. Supplements what is contained in *We Will Not Be Silenced*.
- John MacArthur, editor, *Think Biblically!* Chapters written by faculty of The Master's Seminary and University. Provides basis for a Christian worldview. Covers several topics we will touch on in the class.
- Nathan Busenitz, *Reasons We Believe: 50 Lines of Evidence that Confirm the Christian Faith*. Excellent defense of some key doctrines that are essential to the Christian faith.
- James Anderson, *Why Should I Believe Christianity?* One of the best recent defenses of the Christian faith. Written by a brilliant Christian philosopher but very readable.
- Flip Michaels, *Five Half Truths: Addressing the Most Common Misconceptions of Christianity*. Deals with some of the common distortions of what Biblical Christianity teaches concerning the Bible, God, Jesus, other religions, and good works. Easy read.