NCFCA Apologetics Preparation for Monument Members

Season 22 Monument Release #11



Directions: Work through the source material in this download to help you understand this week’s selection of apologetics prompts. This release addresses approximately 5% of the total number of prompts you will need to be prepared for in your next tournament, so keep up the studying from week to week to ensure your knowledge in Apologetics. This week’s prompts are:

APPLICATION QUESTIONS (PART 3 OF 4)

12. Isn't the Bible irrelevant to the 21st century?

13. Respond to the generalization, "Everything is relative."

14. Respond to the person who says, "God made me this way."\*

15. Respond to the popular slogan, "My body, my choice."\*

16. Is traditional Christianity homophobic?

17. Is artificial intelligence our hope for saving mankind?\*

18. Why does it matter what I believe as long as I'm sincere?\*

19. Is God a Republican?\*

20. Respond to the person who says, "My life is not worth living."\*

21. Respond to the person who says, "I hate my brother for what he did. I could never forgive him for that!"\*

\*This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. A worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

For a list of all the prompts for the year and all other downloads for NCFCA apologetics, visit your download page at <https://club.monumentmembers.com/ncfca-apologetics/download-category/ncfca-apologetics>.

Relevancy of Scripture *by Luis Garcia*

Isn't the Bible irrelevant to the 21st century?

## Bible Verses

Psalm 11:3

Isaiah 58:11-12

Jeremiah 23:29

Luke 21:33

Ephesians 6:17

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 4:12-13

## Quotations

“One must keep on pointing out that Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.” –C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*

“All religions are not the same. All religions do not point to God. All religions do not say that all religions are the same. At the heart of every religion is an uncompromising commitment to a particular way of defining who God is or is not and accordingly, of defining life’s purpose…All religions at its core is exclusive.” –Ravi Zacharias, *Jesus among other gods*

## Recommendations

http://www.thegracetabernacle.org/quotes/Bible-Power.htm

## Commentary

The crux of your response is based in how Scripture stands out beyond any book of comparison. Why does the Bible not blend under the gray title of “religion?” God’s Word is alive. What book claims such a trait? What book can prove such a trait? Truly, this statement is trying to degrade the Bible to being one of many belief systems; it also implies the assumption that all religions are the same. Knowing its assumption and knowing its goal, refute with passion that the Rock we stand on cannot be compared to because it is *the* truth—all other grounds are sinking sand. Show that the Word of God is living and sharp. Point to the fact that what is inscribed on the pages of Scripture cannot be ignored and passed over because of the imbedded accountability—because of the Author behind it.

Relative Truth *by Luis Garcia*

. Respond to the generalization, "Everything is relative."

## Bible Verses

Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Samuel 7:28

Psalm 31:5; 33:4; 119:160

Isaiah 1:18-20; 44; 45:22; Matthew 7:13-14

John 8:24; 14:6; 17:17; 18:37-38; Acts 4:12

Hebrews 4:12-13; Revelation 20:11-15

## Quotations

“Truth by definition is exclusive. If truth were all-inclusive, nothing would be false. And if nothing were false , what would be the meaning of *true*? Moreover, if nothing were false, would it be *true* to say everything is false? It quickly becomes evident that the denial of truth as an absolute either ends up denying itself or else in effect not making any truthful assertion about truth.” –Ravi Zacharias (In his *General Editor’s Introduction* to *The Kingdom of the Cults* by Walter Martin)

“[A]ll truth, by definition, is very narrow. It has one right answer and many wrong answers. For example, 2 + 2 = 4, not 5, not 11, 67 (one right answer and many wrong answers). There is only one person who is the president of the United States right now (one right answer and many wrong answers). I would expect when it comes to eternity that there would one right answer and many wrong answers. And that is exactly the case. There is only one truth, and it's found in the Bible...People need to think about *truth* rather than just *belief*. I might believe that the earth is flat, but it isn't. I might believe the sky is green, but it isn't. I might believe you will send me a thousand dollars, but you probably won't! We must help people to distinguish between their beliefs and what is true.” - Mark Cahill, *One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven*

## Recommendations

<http://carm.org/are-there-absolutes>

## Commentary

All the above quotations and sources are pretty self-explanatory. Your goal is to defend the absolute nature of truth and, as in the words of 2 Timothy 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Start with showing who would disagree with truth being absolute. Then, move to show the fallacious nature of their either pluralistic or relative notions. Lastly, I would highly to show the significance of why truth is absolute, moving the focus on the bigger picture that there is one narrow way and a broad path filled with multiple avenues. A person's choice on what he or she believes is truth and why will have eternal consequences. Truth is a matter of life and death.

God Made Me This Way

Respond to the person who says, "God made me this way."

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

My Body, My Choice

Respond to the popular slogan, "My body, my choice."

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

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Commentary

Homophobia *by Zack Seals*

Is traditional Christianity homophobic?

Bible Verses

[Luke 6:46-49](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A46-49+&version=NIV) (Hypocrisy was one of Jesus’s most common condemnations of the Pharisees)

[James 1:22-27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A22-27+&version=NIV) (We are called to be *doers* of the Word!)

[Romans 2:21-24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+2%3A21-24+&version=NIV) (Bad Christian testimony *blasphemes God’s name* before an unbelieving world)

[2 Corinthians 13:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+13%3A5&version=NIV) (Christians cannot live unexamined lives)

[2 Peter 1:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A10+&version=NIV) (Examine yourself as a Christian)

[Galatians 5:16-25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5%3A16-25+&version=NIV) (Christians are in a battle against their flesh!)
[1 John 3:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+3%3A9+&version=NIV) (Christian’s will not make a *habit* of sinning)

More Scriptures: [Matthew 6:1-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A1-18&version=NIV); [7:1-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A1-8&version=NIV); [15:1-20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+15%3A1-20&version=NIV); [23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+23&version=NIV); [Mark 7:1-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+7%3A1-23&version=NIV); [12:38-39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+12%3A38-39&version=NIV); [Luke 20:45-47](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+20%3A45-47&version=NIV); [12:1-3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A1-3&version=NIV); [18:9-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+18%3A9-14&version=NIV)

Quotations

“It is a sad thing to be Christians at a supper, heathens in our shops, and devils in our closets.” – Stephen Charnock, Puritan

 “Religion which is begun in hypocrisy will certainly end in apostasy.” – William Spurstowe, Puritan

 “It is a terribly easy matter to be a minister of the gospel and a vile hypocrite at the same time.” – C. H. Spurgeon, 19th century preacher (Consider the requirements of an apologist to be a “minister of the gospel”)

 “I’ll believe in the Redeemer when the Christians look a little more redeemed.” – Frederick Nietzsche, German Philosopher

“It is no disgrace to Christianity, it is no disgrace to any great religion, that its counsels of perfection have not made every single person perfect. If after centuries a disparity is still found between its ideal and its followers, it only means that the religion still maintains the ideal, and the followers still need it.” - G.K. Chesterton, *Buddhism and Christianity*

Commentary

This prompt was originally an analytical question: “Analyze and respond to the statement, ‘I am not sure I want to be a Christian, as Christians are hypocritical, intolerant and judgmental.’”

This statement is not only a straightforward one, but could accurately be called the number one existential argument against Christianity. That is to say while many may claim there are logical problems or philosophical difficulties with Christianity this statement gets more to the heart of the matter. Christians aren’t living what they’re teaching. There are two recommendations on what to needs to be addressed in this speech.

First, it’s important to briefly point out, whether in your first point or sometime in your introduction, that hypocrisy alone is *not* a reason to reject a system. It can be coupled with a number of other arguments to make a cumulative case more persuasive, and is often done so for the emotional draw, but if made on its own (as in the above statement) it’s not a reason *per se* to reject an argument. If an *argument* is made based off of hypocrisy alone it turns into what is logically called a *“tu quoque* (which the Latin phrase for appeal to hypocrisy) and is fallacious. For example, you may hear an argument from a certain person that it is bad for your health to smoke. After considering what they said you later find out that the very same person who informed you of this also smokes. Do you now have a reason to reject his argument and keep on smoking? Of course not! His hypocrisy does nothing to affect the rationality of his argument that smoking is bad it simply makes it less persuasive. Therefore, it can be said that on a strictly *logical* basis this can’t be said to be a reason to reject Christianity and that should be pointed out as briefly as possible.

The reason the above, although important, should be addressed as quickly as possible because most people aren’t intending to use it as a logical argument. Once it’s shown that it can’t be a logical argument, you can address the real difficulty–why it is such problematic existential argument. It goes like this: if Christians don’t practice what they preach, then why should anyone conform their own lives to Christianity’s standards? Christians spend a lot of time saying it has a more “moral” standard that is “better” then the world’s, but then they go and act just like everyone else. If they aren’t going to live according to their own standard, then why should anyone else?

You must begin with recognizing the problem. Being honest enough to admit not only that Christians sin as well but that you as a person make mistakes daily is the first step in not only establishing credibility but demonstrating that you really care about the issue and don’t want to give canned answers to difficult questions. Start with sharing some of the verses that were provided above on how this problem of “Christian hypocrites” isn’t a new one but goes all the way back to the first century. Both Jesus and Paul address the issue by calling it out and commanding believers to cease their worldly attitudes.

Additionally, it needs to be pointed out that while Christians and the rest of the world are similar in that they both *sin* the differences is that they both view that sin differently! The world rejoices in its sin and encourages others to do so. An appropriate Christian response is one of guilt which leads to repentance and an acceptance of the incredible forgiveness that is found in Christ. Yes, Christian’s sin, but one who is truly following after God’s call to be like Christ will do everything possible to not have a life *characterized* by sin. A Christian, though they make mistakes just like everyone else, is called to *habitually* change that lifestyle. The letter of 1 John discusses this topic heavily. In fact, the Bible even describes these decisions as a constant battle between our flesh and our spirit which is one we fight daily. Galatians 5:16-25 makes this clear.

Finally, after showing that you honestly recognize the problem and will handle it differently, explain how you plan to make a change. No assessment of a difficulty is complete without providing the solution and that is only found in Christ. Isaiah 1:16-17 says,“Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.” How is this possible? What could possibly be strong enough to give us the ability to change our habits and ways of life and turn towards a truly holy way of living? Christ and His resurrection. What better way to finish a speech but by explaining the way to overcome our hypocrisy and turn back to what we are truly called to be?

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 15:57)

Artificial Intelligence

Is artificial intelligence our hope for saving mankind?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Sincerity

Why does it matter what I believe as long as I'm sincere?

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Bible Verses

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Commentary

Politics

Is God a Republican?

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Bible Verses

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Life Worth Living

Respond to the person who says, "My life is not worth living."

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Bible Verses

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Commentary

Hate

Respond to the person who says, "I hate my brother for what he did. I could never forgive him for that!"

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