

Why Believe? (Eccl.3:11)

Do you believe the claims of Jesus, if so, why? Is faith a blind leap of trust in contrast to reason? God has given us clues that together point to His reality. Like a puzzle, each clue fits together compelling us to see how the claims of Christianity make sense of our lives and world. Inviting us to see that we can't escape living as if God exists even if you want to deny it!

1. A Logical Appeal I Faith in God makes sense of our world and experiences

Why is there something rather than nothing? All scientific evidence points to the universe having a definitive beginning. Every event has a cause. The universe is not eternal and therefore requires a cause outside itself for its existence.

Why do we instinctively believe some things are absolutely right and others horrendously wrong? From where have we received this great conviction of a moral code that directs us? To deny God's existence strips the very basis of our innate conviction about morality. No matter what we claim, we can't live as if morality isn't objectively true. The moment we deny it our lives contradict our claim.

2. A Historical Appeal I Faith in Christ is rooted in a historical event

How did Christianity begin? Exactly what happened to Jesus that started the world's largest movement? Jesus resurrection from the dead is the historical reality that anchors the Christian faith in this world. Women saw him first. No memorial at his tomb for centuries. Jews worshipping a man as God. Disciples who at first denied him only to later go to their death refusing to renounce Him. Hundreds of eyewitnesses claim to have seen Him.

3. An Existential Appeal I Faith in Christ is tangible. Experience Him for yourself

"You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you" St. Augustine of Hippo. We have an innate desire that nothing seems to satisfy. It's as if what we want is only a sign of the greater reality our desire is meant to be satisfied in.

Questions:

1. What is your story of faith? What were the main influencers in trusting Christ or continuing to trust Christ?
2. What clues do you find most compelling? Why?
3. How do faith and reason relate to one another? Does faith contradict reason?
4. What does loving God with all of your mind mean and look like for you?
5. What are some of the benefits of these clues? What role do they or should they play in our faith?
6. What is the role of these clues in evangelism or should they have a role? Rd. 1 Peter 3:13-16. How are we called to defend our faith to those outside it?
7. What are ways that faith in Christ has helped make sense of your world and experiences? How are you currently finding satisfaction in Christ?

PRAY: Spend some time praying for renewed confidence and trust and faith in the claims of Christ. For objections against Christ to be broken down from those seeking and curious.