

The Ten Most Common Responses

1. Any Interjection part way through the Gospel presentation.

The key here is not to be distracted from sharing the Gospel, come back to the interjection later. If it is a:

Question - That's a good question, we'll answer that at the end, let's finish this first though so I don't lose my flow.

Statement - I respect that. I am just presenting what the Bible says, it's up to you to work out whether the Bible is true or not. And we can talk about that at the end if you like. I'll keep going through this though so I don't lose my flow

2. This is just your view of the Bible, only one of many interpretations.

See <http://www.traintoproclaim.com/downloads/isnt-this-just-your-interpretation/> for an excellent explanation of how to explain that this simply isn't the case. But a simple way to explain is to go to the last page of the Follow Up Booklet and point out the statement below the line, about the consistency of the presentation with mainstream churches and organisations.

3. I don't believe the Bible

First you need to establish what they actually mean by this statement, don't assume that you know. A good question to ask is "Are you saying that the Bible that we have now is not how it was originally written, or do you believe the content of the Bible is not true?"

a. The message has been changed

According to Sir Fredrick Kenyon (who was the number one authority in the world in historic documents) the New Testament we have today is exactly the same as it was written 2000 years ago. I can take you through the tests historians use to test if a document has changed or not if you have a few minutes. These tests show how the rumours about the Bible changing are so unfounded. It is very interesting... Use the bibliographical tests part of the free download at <http://www.traintoproclaim.com/downloads/how-you-know-the-bible-is-true/> to go through this.

b. The content is not true

If you like, I can take you through the tests historians use to test if a document is true or not. Do you have a few minutes? It is very interesting ... (Use the Internal and External Tests part of the free download at <http://www.traintoproclaim.com/downloads/how-you-know-the-bible-is-true/> to go through this).

c. The Bible is just fairy tales (this is another variation of the two above)

Why don't we believe fairy tales? Well, they are obviously made up because they are far from life as we know it, and don't talk about fears, failures and feelings. The Bible on the other hand is very relevant to life as we know it, and covers all sorts - rape, murder, wars, failures, love, romance, songs, eye witness accounts of events, wise sayings, you name it. Have you ever read it? I guarantee that if you did you would find that it rings true and is nothing like a fairy tale.

If you like, I can take you through the tests historians use to test if a document is true or not. Do you have a few minutes? It is very interesting ... (Use the Internal and External Tests, and Prophecy section from the free download at <http://www.traintoproclaim.com/downloads/how-you-know-the-bible-is-true/> to go through this").

If they say "no" to the explanation you are offering

You can offer instead to email the information to them or refer them to the website in the back of the follow up booklet booklet. Say "This is really worth checking out, because if the Bible is true then it has HUGE consequences for our lives, eternity is a long time – not just a mere billion years!!!"

4. There is no God, or I'm an atheist

- a. Do you see that building over there? (Yes)
Did it have a builder? (Yes)
Do you know any building that does not have a builder? (No)
Have you seen all the builders of all the buildings? (No)
The evidence of the existence of the builder is the building.
In the same way, you can't see God but you know that He exists because of the design and order of the created world.
- b. Use the 'All Knowledge' diagram. A video link will be added here to demonstrate how to do this.

5. I don't believe in a "God", just a supreme being, or Nature is God, or Human beings are gods, or I have my own beliefs, or I think everyone is right, or There is no such thing as truth, or Truth is relative

- a. I respect that you believe that. But let's say I don't believe in gravity and you do. If we climbed up that building over there and both jumped off the top, then you would come crashing down, but I would just float around in the air, because I don't believe in gravity. I don't think so! The moment my foot leaves the top of that building my beliefs become irrelevant, and reality takes over! And if what I have shown you is true today, then the moment you die you will stand before almighty God and be judged.
- b. At the end of the day we all need to work out **why** we believe **what** we believe. And if your belief is elevated above what the Bible says, then you are a braver person than what I am!

6. If there is a God, why doesn't He get rid of suffering?

You mean like Ethiopia with all its starving millions? Do you know that 90% of the suffering in the world is caused by humans? Do you know that there is enough food in this world to feed everyone three times over? The reason that people in Ethiopia are starving has nothing to do with God. It has to do with us. And it isn't God that goes around with a AK47 blowing people away in a war, it's humans. You might ask, then why doesn't God stop it if He is so powerful? Well He has created us with free choice (seen the movie Bruce Almighty?). We aren't robots or puppets doing exactly what He wants us to. He wants us to choose to do right. But whatever we choose, we need to live with the consequences of those choices, and also the consequences of other peoples choices as we are all connected in society. And sadly, this free choose often leads to suffering.

There is of course a small percentage of suffering that is not a direct result of anyone's wrong choices; for example natural disasters and diseases. The Bible says that back in the beginning the earth was perfect, but from the moment human beings chose to rule their own lives and reject God's perfect way then everything including the earth and the ecosystem started to fall apart. We need to surrender our lives back to God, acknowledge that His way is right and we will start afresh in the new paradise (we call this Heaven) after we die. Only then will we and our environment will be at peace once again. In the meantime suffering in whatever form is an opportunity to build character in our lives and to draw our dependence on the only One who can save us and ultimately protect us. And we draw closer to God during these times as He is with us and helps us through these times.

7. But hasn't science has proven religion to be wrong through evolution?

How did the world we live in become so ordered? Newton's second Law of thermodynamics says that everything goes from a state of order to a state of chaos. The whole premise of the THEORY of the evolution of species is the opposite of this LAW, that the universe and we have gone from chaos to detailed and intricate order.

I suppose you think that all you need to do is add time to matter? If I took this watch (take your watch off your wrist) and disassembled it, put the component parts into a bucket for three trillion years, and then took the lid off, would you honestly believe that it would be back together again with the right time and date after no one had touched it? I doubt it. But you say, "The watch is not living matter". The world has evolved from living matter! But where did the living matter come from? How did it go from inorganic to organic? Where did the inorganic matter come from? We're now in the third millennium. With all scientific knowledge and expertise we have around the world, scientists have been able to create a human cell in a laboratory, but no one has been able to make it live. Only God can make it "go".

Don't be fooled, this is not a debate between religion and science. Evolution of species (as opposed to natural selection – a very important distinction) is not a science, it is a belief. Science is about what we can prove, through observation and testing. No one has observed evolution of species or intelligent design and it can't be tested. Both 'theories' of how the world and human beings came into existence are trying to convince people that they have 'science' on their side. But neither can be observed, tested or proven and hence the reason that they remain theories and neither has become a 'law'. And many scientists today who don't hold to any religion, favour intelligent design above evolution due to the overwhelming complexity, structure and order in the universe. They cannot logical concede that we are simply a lump of insignificant atoms that came together by random chance, when there is so much evidence that everything has been intricately designed. The more science advances, the more this is becoming apparent, even to 'unbelievers'.

8. What about all the other Religions?

Well I respect that there are a lot of different beliefs and you may believe something different than what I have shown you here today. And what I have presented from the Bible is contrary to what other religions teach. So if we are honest they cannot all be correct, can they? I could make up my own religion, and call it the “me” religion, and even get people to join, but would it be true?

When we die only what is true will happen and “religions” will become irrelevant (could use the gravity illustration here from 5.a). It doesn't matter whether you are brought up in a Buddhist family, or a Hindu family, or a Moslem family, it doesn't matter whether you are male or female, black or white, God has made a way for EVERYONE to make it to Heaven. The only decision we need to make is will we have that major event in our lives and receive Jesus' perfect record? Will we accept Him or reject Him? I want to make sure everyone has the chance to find out what is true. Today I have shown you how to get to Heaven from the Bible. Now you need to go away and discover for yourself what is really true, I will leave that up to you...

9. The church is full of hypocrites

“A hypocrite is someone whose actions don't always match up with his or her words. Do you know anyone whose actions always match up with their words? Christians aren't claiming to be perfect, we are far from it, but every true Christian is trying their best to live their life right, otherwise they really haven't had this third major event we have been talking about.

10. Why are there so many different denominations?

Why are there so many different types of restaurants? Why so many different types of cars? Within Christianity there are many different denominations, with a richness in variety of different styles of worship, emphasis, and appeal to different demographics. But all Christian denominations believe in the same fundamentals of the Christian faith.