

INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE THEMSELVES

PART 1



**PROVIDING
ANSWERS
THAT CAN
MAKE A
REAL
DIFFERENCE**

	Truth On The Web Ministries	
		
Eph 6:17	And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is The Word of God	Church of God at Woodstock

INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE THEMSELVES

2 Timothy 2:24–26

And the **servant of the Lord** must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness **instructing those that oppose themselves**; if God peradventure will **give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth**; And that they may **recover themselves out of the snare of the devil**, who are taken captive by him at his will.



INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE THEMSELVES

-The question is often asked, “If Christianity is rational and true, why is it that most educated people don’t believe it?”

-The answer is simple. They don’t believe it for the very same reason that most uneducated don’t believe it. They don’t want to believe it. It’s not a matter of brain power, for there are outstanding Christians in every field of the arts and sciences. It is primarily a matter of will.



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Then why do we bother with giving answers and evidence for the existence of God or any other area that is questioned?

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer** to **every man** that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

We should do this because people do have genuine doubts and questions.



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Acts 19:1

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts **came to Ephesus**: and finding certain disciples,

Acts 19:8

And he went into the synagogue, and **spake** boldly for the space of **three months, disputing and persuading** the things concerning the kingdom of God.



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Acts 17:16–17

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore disputed he in the **synagogue with the Jews**, and with the **devout persons**, and **in the market daily with them that met with him**.

2 Timothy 2:23

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.



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1 Corinthians 2:1–5

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was **not with enticing words of man's wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That **your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**



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Jeremiah 9:23–24

Thus saith the LORD, Let **not** the **wise man glory in his wisdom**, neither let the **mighty man glory in his might**, let **not** the **rich man glory in his riches**: But let him that glorieth **glory in this**, that he understandeth and knoweth me, **that I am the LORD** which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.



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Proverbs 26:4

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

Proverbs 15:1

...but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 15:2

...but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.



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Proverbs 26:5

Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

Proverbs 15:1a

A soft answer turneth away wrath...

Proverbs 15:2a

The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright...

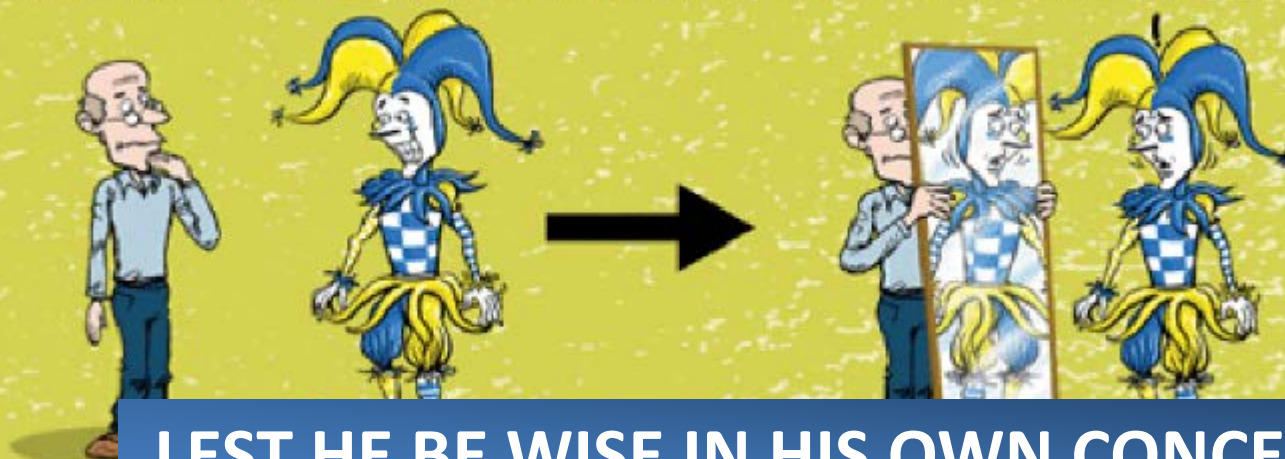


DO NOT ANSWER A FOOL ACCORDING TO HIS FOLLY (Prov. 26:4)



LEST THOU BE LIKE UNTO HIM...

ANSWER A FOOL ACCORDING TO HIS FOLLY (Prov. 26:5)



LEST HE BE WISE IN HIS OWN CONCEIT...

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John 14:6

**Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth,
and the life: no man cometh unto the Father,
but by me.**

There is no hope for those who reject Jesus



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Why Do Christians Think others need to Know?

-People say: 'Christians are always trying to force their beliefs on others – why can't they just let people live the way they want to?'

-What is the Christian's motivation for sharing the Gospel?



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Why Do Christians Think others need to Know?

Acts 26:28–29

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me **to be a Christian**. And Paul said, I would to God, **that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day**, were both almost, and altogether **such as I am**, except these bonds.



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Why Do Christians Think others need to Know?

Another accusation that people make

“You are a Christian because you were born in America.”

“If you were born in China you would be a Buddhist, if you were born in Saudi Arabia you would be a Muslim, etc...”

“How can you say all the others are wrong...”



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Hebrews 11:6

But **without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe **that he is**, and that he is a **rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.



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Does God Exist?

Psalm 14:1a

The fool hath said in his heart, **There is no God...**

Psalm 14:1b

...They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.



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Does God Exist?

Exodus 3:14

And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you.

Psalms 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from **everlasting to everlasting**, thou art God.

Revelation 1:11a

I am **Alpha and Omega**, the **first and the last**...



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Does God Exist?

It is not uncommon for someone to say that they understand and even agree with what they have heard and yet still reject God for one simple reason (and some will admit it):

They understand the way they live would have to change and they do not want to do that.

This is the Moral aspect which is always ultimately at the basis of rejection



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Does God Exist?

John Stott wrote: “We cannot pander to a man’s intellectual arrogance, but we must cater to his intellectual integrity.”

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to **think** of himself more highly than he **ought to think**; but to **think soberly**, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.



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Does God Exist?

All humans are born with a conscience. It has been defiled and seared by our sin, but all have the ability to know right from wrong (unless we have completely seared ourselves).

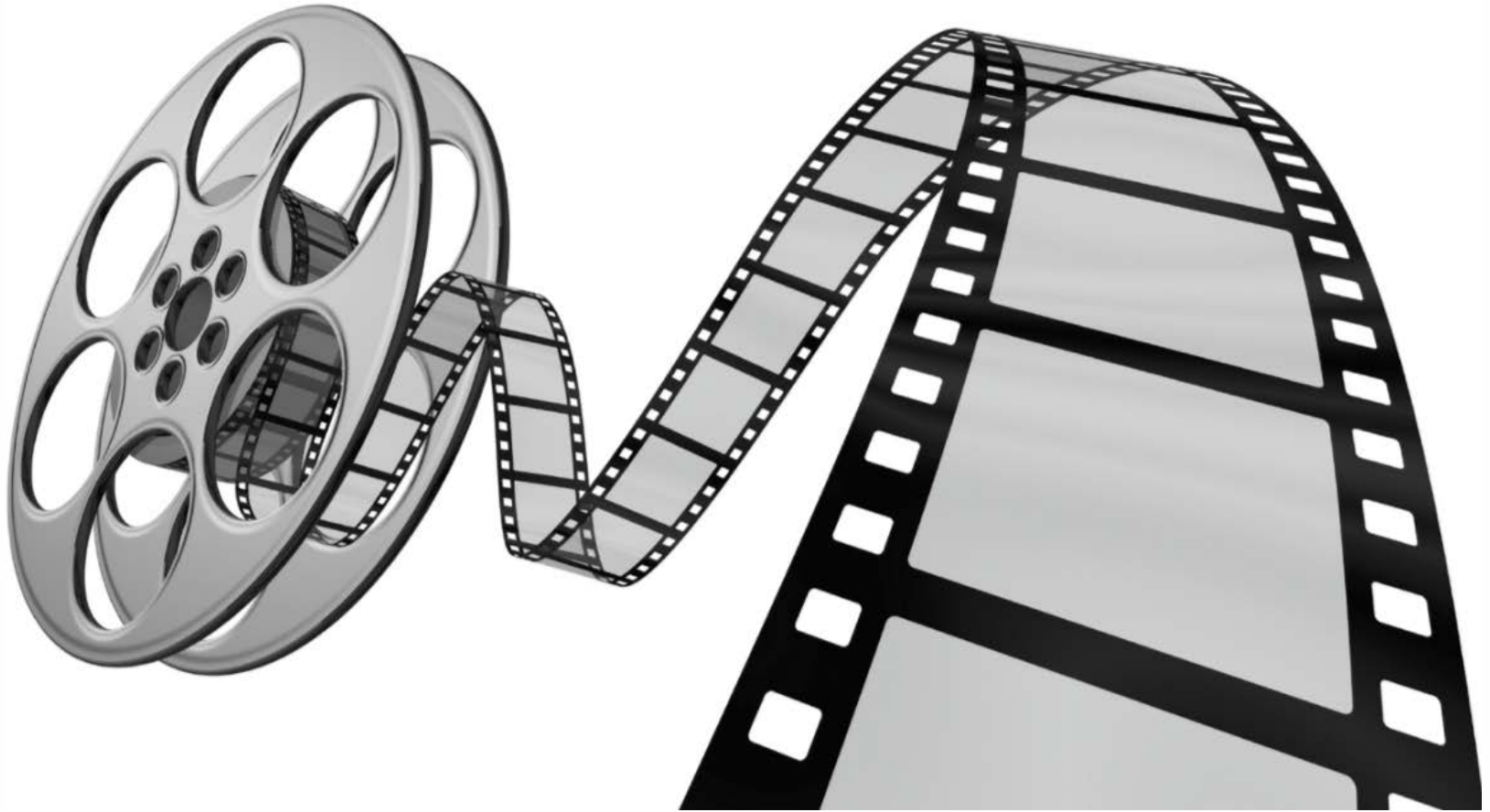
Where does that universal 'conscience' come from?

God!



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Does God Exist?



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Does God Exist?

There are some very interesting facts regarding the universal belief in God.

(1) More than 90 percent of the religions of the world acknowledge the existence of one supreme being and some even anticipate God's redeeming concern.

(2) In every case, this monotheistic belief predated other forms of worship or beliefs and heathenistic practices. This is true the world over on every continent.



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Does God Exist?

(3) These other forms of heathenistic and polytheistic practices were invariably the result of failing to pursue the knowledge of God. Failure to pursue belief in the one Supreme Being created a vacuum into which false and demonic beliefs quickly rushed. As an illustration, ancient Chinese and Koreans had believed in a Supreme God who created all things. In China his name was Shang Ti and in Korea it was Hananim, The Great One. This belief predated Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. It goes back 2600 years before Christ and worshippers throughout China and Korea seem to have understood from the beginning that Shang Ti/Hananim must never be represented by idols.

Richardson, *Eternity In Their Hearts*, Regal Books, pp. 63f.



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Does God Exist?

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning **God created the heaven and the earth.**

Isaiah 45:18

For thus saith the **LORD that created the heavens**; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, **he formed it to be inhabited**: I am the LORD; and there is none else.



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Does God Exist?

Romans 1:18-20

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because **God has shown it to them**. For his **invisible attributes**, namely, his **eternal power and divine nature**, have been **clearly perceived**, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are **without excuse**. (ESV)



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Does God Exist?

The existence of a complex object proves there was a designer, a creator...



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Does God Exist?

Another illustration is a stone wall. Rocks falling in a landslide never form a properly placed, neat, uniform stone wall. Rather, such a stone wall proves design and a designer. So the world, in all its perfection and design, must have had a Designer.



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Does God Exist?

Another common question: “Then who made God?”

Answer: No one – God has always and will always be.

Science requires every ‘effect’ [*such as the Universe*] have a cause. Science cannot provide the cause for the Universe. They must accept the fact that had one on absolute faith...



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Does God Exist?

Many use this line of reasoning to eliminate the need for God, blindly accepting facts not in evidence that there was some natural cause for the Universe and that that exists.

This is VERY unscientific and hypocritical.

A reasoning mind cannot on this basis dismiss the existence of a Creator/Designer – God.



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Is God Good/Why is there evil?

- One main objection to God's goodness is the idea of sinners 'burning in hell forever'*
- In our genre of faith we have an advantage in this realm – we can often dissuade them of this argument by stating that Scripture does not put forth that doctrine.*
- It might be a good idea to have a few verses written down to give to them if they want to look into this further.*



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Is God Good/Why is there evil?

Romans 8:28

And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the **thoughts that I think toward you**, saith the LORD, **thoughts of peace**, and not of evil, **to give you an expected end**.



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Is God Good/Why is there evil?

- Couldn't God stop evil from happening? Stop the murderer from murdering, stop the thief from stealing, stop the drunk driver from plowing into the family in the minivan?
- Of course He could – He is God. But let's take this a little farther:
- How about the bully who picks on his classmates? How about the employee who steals [even an extra couple minutes during break].
- Do you start to see a problem here? God would have to intervene completely into everyone's life to prevent evil...



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Is God Good/Why is there evil?

- OK then, couldn't God just judge and remove those who have or will commit evil deeds?
- Sure He could, but the end result is the same – everyone would be removed.



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Is God Good/Why is there evil?

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

2 Peter 3:15

And account that the **longsuffering of our Lord is salvation**; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;



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Is God Good/Why is there evil?

Romans 9:22–23

What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, **endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath** fitted to destruction: And that he **might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy**, which he had afore prepared unto glory,



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Is God Good/Why is there evil?

Another evidence of God's goodness?

- Creation itself – our environment is perfectly suited to fill our needs (food, shelter, life) and comforts (temperate climate, beautiful scenery, etc)

- Take for example the location of the Earth in relation to the sun – perfect distance to provide ample light (for sight and the plants) and livable temperatures. A little closer or further away and we could not survive on it.



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Ephesians 5:14–18

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and **Christ shall give thee light**. See then that ye **walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil**. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding **what the will of the Lord is**. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit**;



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ENJOY THE REST OF
THE SABBATH

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