

NCFCA APOLOGETICS TOPICS

Tournament Directors will make selections from the topics posted on this site for use in league-sanctioned competition.

Category 1: EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF GOD

Definitions

1. Explain the meaning and significance of the trinity.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of the omniscience of God.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of the omnipotence of God.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of the omnipresence of God.
5. Explain the meaning and significance of the transcendence and immanence of God.
6. Explain the meaning and significance of the eternity of God.
7. Explain the meaning and significance of the holiness of God.
8. Explain the meaning and significance of the righteousness of God.
9. Explain the meaning and significance of the sovereignty of God.
10. Explain the meaning and significance of the grace of God.

General Questions

1. In what ways has God revealed Himself to man?
2. If God is real, why can't people see or touch Him?
3. If God is holy, why did He allow evil in the world?
4. How can God be both merciful and just?
5. Why is the unchanging nature of God critical to who He is?
6. How does a Christian account for natural disasters?
7. Why do bad things happen to good people?
8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

Statement Analysis

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "The Old Testament God is a God of hate while the New Testament God is a God of love." –Anonymous
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him." –Voltaire¹
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." –A.W. Tozer²
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "God set the universe in motion but He has no interest in it." –Anonymous
5. Analyze and respond to the statement, "If God understands my humanity and sin nature better than I do, why does He still hold me accountable for what I cannot help doing?" –Anonymous
6. Analyze and respond to the statement, "As an atheist, I don't believe there is a God." –Anonymous

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Category 2: SCRIPTURES

Definitions

1. Explain the meaning and significance of inerrancy.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of divine inspiration.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of Biblical canon.
5. Explain the meaning and significance of higher (historical) criticism and lower (textual) criticism.

General Questions

1. Jesus clearly demonstrated His belief in the authority of Scriptures. Defend this statement with evidence.
2. If the Bible was written by men, how could it also be written by God?
3. How can the Bible be trustworthy when it has been translated so many times?
4. Is the Old Testament a reliable historical document?
5. Is the New Testament a reliable historical document?
6. Did the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls affirm or deny the accuracy of the Old Testament?
7. How does the reliability of Biblical manuscripts compare to other ancient texts?
8. How did the church decide what should be included in the canon of Scripture?
9. Why are there parallel myths to the Biblical narrative in other religions?
10. Are Scripture and science in conflict?

Statement Analysis

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, “The Bible is no different than any other holy book.” –Anonymous
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, “The Bible is simply the work of a great conspiracy, where people sought to create a religion of their own.” –Anonymous
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, “We can’t believe in a Bible that is full of contradictions.” –Anonymous
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, “The Bible was written to look like Jesus fulfilled prophecy.” –Anonymous
5. Analyze and respond to the statement, “The gospels were simply a collaborative effort of the church written after the time of Christ.” –Anonymous

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Category 3: THE NATURE, PURPOSE AND DESTINY OF MAN

Definitions

1. Explain the meaning and significance of the image of God.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of the depravity of man.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of original sin.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of the sin nature.
5. Explain the meaning and significance of sanctification.
6. Explain the meaning and significance of repentance.
7. Explain the meaning and significance of regeneration.

General Questions

1. Do all men have a longing for God?
2. Do all men have a conscience?
3. If God is invisible, (1 Timothy 1:17) how can man be made in the image of God?
4. If man is inherently sinful, why do many men lead relatively good lives?
5. What is the purpose of man?
6. What is the destiny of man?
7. Why would a loving God create hell?
8. What is the essential duty of man?
9. What is the purpose of prayer?

Statement Analysis

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, “All men were born with ten fingers and toes but no one was born with the knowledge of God.” –Voltaire³
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, “Heaven is only a state of mind.” –Anonymous
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, “He’s only human,” as a justification for sin and the need for leniency. –Anonymous
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, “When man dies, he simply ceases to exist. There is no immortality or eternal life.” –Anonymous
5. Analyze and respond to the statement, “All matter, energy, and life are an interconnected unity of which we are an inseparable part.” –World Pantheism Movement⁴
6. Analyze and respond to the statement, “Religion is as much a living spring of violence today as it was at any time in the past.” –Sam Harris⁵
7. Analyze and respond to the statement, “All human beings go through a previous life.” –Honore Balzac⁶

NCFCA APOLOGETICS TOPICS

Category 4: SALVATION or HOW TO KNOW GOD

Definitions

1. Explain the meaning and significance of justification.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of atonement.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of propitiation.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of redemption.
5. Explain the meaning and significance of reconciliation.

General Questions

1. How can a man know God?
2. Can a man become right with God by keeping the Ten Commandments?
3. Isn't it narrow minded to believe there is only one way to heaven?
4. Why does man need salvation?
5. What is the purpose of the Church?
6. How do you know that there is absolute truth?

Statement Analysis

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere." –Anonymous
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Every charitable act is a stepping stone to heaven." –Henry Ward Beecher⁷
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence." –Richard Dawkins⁸
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I believe I will go to heaven because I have lived a pretty good life." –Anonymous
5. Analyze and respond to the statement, "It is arrogant to claim to know the truth." –Anonymous
6. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I don't want to be saved because I would need to give up the things I enjoy." –Anonymous
7. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I am not sure I want to be a Christian, as Christians are hypocritical, intolerant and judgmental." –Anonymous
8. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I don't need to go to church. I can worship God wherever I am." –Anonymous

NCFCA APOLOGETICS TOPICS

Category 5: THE PERSON OF CHRIST

Definitions

1. What is the meaning and significance of the deity of Christ?
2. What is the meaning and significance of the Incarnation?
3. What is the meaning and significance of Jesus as the Mediator?
4. What is the meaning and significance of Jesus as the Messiah?
5. What is the meaning and significance of Jesus as the Word of God?
6. What is the meaning and significance of Jesus as the Lamb of God?

General Questions

1. Why is the virgin birth essential to the Christian faith?
2. Why is the resurrection essential to the Christian faith?
3. If God is infinite, how could He limit Himself in the person of Christ?
4. How could Jesus be both God and man?
5. Why did Jesus have to die to provide salvation for men?
6. What evidence is there for the historical existence of Jesus?
7. What evidence is there for the resurrection of Jesus?
8. What was the purpose of the miracles that Jesus performed?

Statement Analysis

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Jesus' life and death are merely examples to us that we should all live sacrificial lives." –Anonymous
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Jesus was a good man and a good teacher but certainly not the Son of God." –Anonymous
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I don't need Jesus, I can just relate to God myself." –Anonymous
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Justice has not been served by Jesus' substitutionary atonement." –Anonymous
5. Analyze and respond to the statement, "We have much to learn from the Jesus of the Gnostic gospels." –Anonymous

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Works Cited

¹ “Quotations by Author.” *QuotationsPage*. N.d. Web. 15 Jul 2011. <www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Voltaire>.

² Tozer, A.W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. New York: HarperCollins, 1961. Print.

³ “Voltaire Quotes.” *Equotes*. 27 Nov 2007. Web. 15 July 2011. <<http://equotes.wetpaint.com/page/Voltaire+Quotes>>.

⁴ Z, Ethan. “The Belief Statement (Credo) of the World Pantheism Movement.” *Pantheism Today*. 9 Dec. 2009. Web. 15 July 2011 <www.pantheismtoday.com/beliefs/the-belief-statement-credo-of-the-world-pantheist-movement>.

⁵ Harris, Sam. *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror and the Future of Reason*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2004. Print.

⁶ “Thirty Quotes on Reincarnation.” *Hinduism.About.Com*. Subhamoy Das. N.d. Web. 4 Aug 2011. <http://hinduism.about.com/od/reincarnation/a/quotes_2.htm>.

⁷ “Henry Ward Beecher Quotes.” *BrainyQuote*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Jul 2011. <<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/h/henrywardb100772.html>>.

⁸ Dawkins, Richard. “Richard Dawkins Quotes.” *ThinkExist*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Jul 2011. <<http://thinkexist.com/search/searchquotation.asp?search=faiht+is+the+greatest+cop-out>>.