

All It Takes

3. Persuasion – Q+A

1. Faith in God is convenient, but that doesn't make it true.

- i.e. You only believe because you want to.
 - Karl Marx: "religion is the opium of the people"
 - Sigmund Freud: "God is the projection of an absent father"

But.....

- Don't nonchristians **disbelieve** because they want to? It works both ways.
- Christian faith is good news – but not all good news is untrue!!
- Check out the evidence!

One more thing!!

- "No God" means
 - There is no objective right and wrong
 - We don't have freedom to make responsible choices: we're just a complex machine.

MIND = BRAIN = MACHINE

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- "No God" means
 - There is no objective right and wrong
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BUT....
- Being human means
 - We can't avoid having a moral sense
 - We can't avoid knowing we make choices and are responsible

If it's impossible to live on the basis of what we think is true, it's time to find something else that makes sense of who we are!

Q2. Why do I need God?

- Without God there's
 - no meaning to life,
 - no ultimate value to human life
 - no hope for the future

Do I need God?

The reality of our need
is not defined
by our awareness of it!

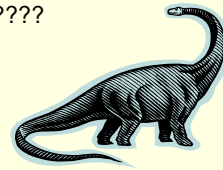
It's a question of TRUTH

IF.....

- We are created by God
- To share a fulfilling relationship with him
- For ever....
We have no greater need or opportunity than to find God!

3. Creation can't be true because of the dinosaurs.

- Says who????



- Genesis doesn't commit us to a 6,000 year old world and creation in 144 hours!
- Evolution doesn't disprove creation.

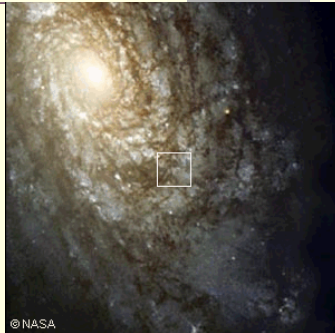
By chance....

- Matter exists without explanation or cause
- Matter is precisely right to form a universe (1 part in 1,000,000,000,000 etc different would make it impossible!)
- Universe can be understood mathematically
- Earth = ideal for life in over 90 vital respects
- Life "appears"
- Evolution makes us what we are



Or.....

*"In the beginning
God created
the heavens
and the earth".*



4. How can God allow Suffering?

- *In a godless universe, nothing is "wrong", so why should we react as if suffering is a problem???*
- *Why should we feel outraged by cruelty?*

God's world gone wrong...

- God created us to be free
-to love him and be loved
- But freedom = RISK
- Bad choices bring pain to us, to others (including the "innocent").....to God

Natural disasters?

- A world that's different from God's original plan

Resources

1. Reassurance: God is involved



2. Hope: Christ is risen, and suffering is not for ever



3. Strength: Christ is with me



Practical pointers..

1. Listen as well as speaking
2. Speak gently: to win your friend!
3. Explore what you don't know
4. Don't defend what you don't need to: stick to the main thing!