

Good Questions, Real Answers

Helpful Books for Explaining and Defending Christianity (Apologetics)

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Especially for seekers:

1. *The Seeker's Bible: New Testament*, New Living Translation (Tyndale, 2000).

This is a very readable translation of the Bible (New Testament only) that contains helpful introductory material written esp. for spiritual seekers by Pastor and Evangelist Greg Laurie. We have giveaway copies at our Info Desk.

2. Josh McDowell & Thomas Williams, *In Search of Certainty* (Tyndale, 2003).

A great place to encourage seekers to start if they are wondering if we can be certain about anything. Does truth exist? Can we know it? This thought-provoking little book makes a strong case for an affirmative answer.

3. James Emery White, *A Search for the Spiritual: Exploring Real Christianity* (Baker, 1998).

If I could only recommend one book to put into the hands of a spiritual seeker, this would be the one. It briefly but very helpfully introduces people to authentic Christianity.

4. Brian McLaren, *Finding Faith: A Self-Discovery Guide for Your Spiritual Quest* (Zondervan, 2000).

For people with absolutely no church background, and who are influenced by the postmodern mindset, this book helps them get into the ballpark concerning faith in God. The section "God for Logical Thinkers" is esp. strong.

5. Os Guinness, *Long Journey Home: A Guide to Your Search for the Meaning of Life* (Random House, 2001).

"Rich in stories and profoundly personal as well as practical, it explores the great philosophies of life and charts the road toward meaning taken by countless thoughtful seekers over the centuries." Leads the reader to Christ.

6. Norman Geisler & Paul Hoffman (eds.), *Why I Am a Christian: Leading Thinkers Explain Why They Believe* (Baker, 2001).

For those who perhaps think that Christians have checked their brains at the door (!), here is a collection of stimulating essays by some very sharp scholars who share why they believe. There is some really good stuff here.

7. Josh McDowell, *More Than a Carpenter* (Tyndale, 1977).

A classic little book that helps introduce people to Jesus Christ in a way that challenges them to see faith in him as entirely reasonable—and life-changing! Includes Josh McDowell's personal testimony.

8. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (Zondervan, 2001, originally published 1952).

Another classic little book that has influenced many people to come to faith in Jesus Christ. Now over 50 years old, this resource continues to be useful in explaining and defending "mere Christianity."

For both seekers and believers (addressing questions):

1. Ravi Zacharias & Norman Geisler, *Who Made God? And Answers to Over 100 Other Tough Questions of Faith* (Zondervan, 2003).

An excellent general resource that provides bite-size answers to many of the challenging questions people have about the Christian faith as well as other faiths. A great place to start.

2. Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity* (Zondervan, 2000).

This very engaging book deals head-on with eight of the most common and challenging objections people have to Christianity. I give this book away all the time, and people almost always find it helpful.

3. Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus* (Zondervan, 1998).

Similar in format to the prior book, but now dealing specifically with the evidence for Jesus. Those wondering whether we can trust what the Bible says about Jesus will find this book particularly helpful.

4. Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God* (Zondervan, 2004).

For those wondering whether there is any scientific evidence that supports belief in God (or who assume that there isn't), this is easily the best place to start. Another great read as Strobel interviews leading scholars.

5. William Lane Craig, *Hard Questions, Real Answers* (Crossway, 2003).

This stimulating resource covers quite a bit of ground not covered in the books above, including questions about doubt, unanswered prayer, failure, and even abortion and homosexuality.

6. Kenneth Samples, *Without a Doubt: Answering the 20 Toughest Faith Questions* (Baker, 2004).

Just released this summer, this is yet another excellent resource for dealing with challenging questions about Christianity. Samples is an experienced apologist and worthy guide.

7. Norman Geisler & Ron Brooks, *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences* (Baker, 1990).

This very well-organized resource helps you think through the questions skeptics have about the Christian faith. No one has done more than Geisler to equip people to defend their faith, and this resource is one of his best.

8. Paul Copan, *"True For You, But Not For Me": Deflating the Slogans That Leave Christians Speechless* (Bethany House, 1998).

I love this book! It deals with extremely timely issues, and it does so in a way that is easy to digest and remember. The follow up volume by Copan, *"That's Just Your Interpretation"* (Baker, 2001), is equally useful.

9. Alister McGrath, *Intellectuals Don't Need God & Other Modern Myths: Building Bridges To Faith Through Apologetics* (Zondervan, 1993).

So far, none of the books listed above have adequately addressed how we should go about sharing and defending our faith, as well as why people often struggle so much to believe. This one does, and it's extremely helpful.

For students (youth), both seekers and believers:

1. Gwendolyn Mitchell Diaz, *Sticking Up for What I Believe: Answers to the Spiritual Questions Teenagers Ask* (NavPress, 2002).
2. Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity*, Student Edition (Zondervan, 2002).
3. Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*, Student Edition (Zondervan, 2001).
4. Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God*, Student Edition (Zondervan, 2004).
5. Norman Geisler & Joseph Holden, *Living Loud: Defending Your Faith* (Broadman & Holman, 2002).
6. J. Budziszewski, *How to Stay Christian in College* (NavPress, 2004).

For those with questions about other religions:

1. Michael Green, *"But Don't All Religions Lead to God?" Navigating the Multi-Faith Maze* (Baker, 2002).

In less than 100 pages, Green helps to challenge readers to discover and respond to the uniqueness of Jesus Christ when compared with the claims of other religions. A very sensitive Christian guide to the "multi-faith maze."

2. Ravi Zacharias, *Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message* (Thomas Nelson/W, 2002).

Zacharias, a native of India, has produced a similar work to the one above, helping the reader to answer the question, "In a world with so many religions, why Jesus?" Very intellectually stimulating and practically challenging.

3. Fritz Ridenour, *So What's the Difference? A Look at 20 Worldviews, Faiths and Religions and How They Compare to Christianity* (Regal, 2001).
4. Winfried Corduon, *A Tapestry of Faiths: The Common Threads Between Christianity and World Religions* (InterVarsity, 2002).
5. Timothy George, *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammed? Understanding the Differences Between Christianity and Islam* (Zondervan, 2002).

For those who want to dig deeper:

1. Norman Geisler, *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* (Baker, 1999).

This comprehensive reference book is a goldmine of information on explaining and defending the Christian faith. I use it regularly when I'm asked questions. Indispensable for anyone in leadership.

2. Peter Kreeft & Ronald Tacelli, *Handbook of Christian Apologetics* (InterVarsity, 1993).

Another excellent reference book that I often utilize in my study and teaching, written by two professors of philosophy at Boston college who happen to both be Catholic. A very useful "Pocket" version is available as well.

3. Francis J. Beckwith, William Lane Craig & J. P. Moreland, *To Everyone An Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview* (InterVarsity, 2004).

Due out this summer, this will surely be a definitive resource on apologetics from some of the sharpest Christian philosophers of our day. I can't wait to get it and read it!