

biblical answers to tough questions
chairman's address

1 Peter 3:15-16 **Richard Coekin**

¹⁵But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

• **Welcome!**

• **Irritating noise or criminal silence?**

1. Be ready with the reason for your hope!

- *we have a glorious and certain hope*

- *hope will provoke questions*

- *there are good reasons for our hope*

👉 **Get ready!**

2. Be humble in the way you behave!

- speak with gentleness

- speak with reverence

- speak with a clear conscience

👉 **Be humble... like Jesus**

👉 ***Biblical answers to tough questions***

biblical answers to tough questions

how can we know the truth about God?

John 14:26 & John 16:12-14 **Vaughan Roberts**

²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

.....
¹²“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

Introduction

- 3 approaches: Reason
- Experience
- Revelation

1. God has revealed himself in Christ (*John 1:18; John 1:1-2, 14*)

We can't have God without Christ...

...so we must look to Christ

2. Christ is revealed in the Bible (*2 Tim 3:15*)

Can we trust the Bible?

The Da Vinci Code

But the Gospels are ancient

We can't have Christ without the Scriptures...

...so we must look to the Scriptures

3. The Bible is revealed by the Spirit

a) The Spirit inspired the Bible (*2 Tim 3:16; Jn 16:12-15*)

b) The Spirit illuminates the Bible (*1 Cor 2:14*)

We can't have the Bible without the Spirit...

...so we must look to the Spirit

Interpreting the Bible (*Psalms 119:18*)

Conclusion

We must not divide what God has joined

biblical answers to tough questions
the uniqueness of Jesus

John Stott

Introduction

1. The background to our study
2. The focus of our study

Jesus Christ was unique

1. In his incarnation
2. In his atonement

3. In his resurrection

4. In his exaltation

Nobody but Jesus possesses these unique qualifications.

Conclusion

1. Pluralism and tolerance
2. Pluralism and evangelism

biblical answers to tough questions

isn't Christianity restrictive?

John 8:31-36 **Liam Goligher**

The Children of Abraham

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The quest for freedom drives human history.

"Man will never be free until the last king is strangled by the entrails of the last priest"

– Diderot

1. The Myth of Freedom v 33-34

Freedom = Independence

2. The Basis of Freedom v 35-36

A change of status: from slave to son through the Son

3. The Way of Freedom v 31-32

Through submission to freedom