

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (C3) HOMEWORK

“Edifying the body by embracing the grace of the Spirit to live out the love of the Son in fellowship that glorifies the Father”



WARM UP

1. If you had spend the rest of your life indoors or in nature, which would you choose? Why?
2. What area of reasonable evidence has most strengthened your faith? Which has most challenged your faith?
 - a) Existence of God
 - b) Reliability of the Bible
 - c) The Life, Ministry, and Claims of Jesus
 - d) The Resurrection
 - e) Miracles
 - f) Other
3. Describe a time when you were challenged to give evidence for your faith.

DIGGING DEEPER

4. What was the most interesting thing you learned about the Resurrection? How could this knowledge help you answer objections you've heard before to Jesus rising from the dead? (Every alternative explanation to the Resurrection (disciples stole the body, Jesus wasn't actually dead, the disciples hallucinated Jesus' resurrection, etc) fails to consider one or more of the facts. Talk about how each objection deals with the execution, empty tomb, eye witness accounts, and existence of the Church.)
5. Read Hebrews 11:3. We have been defining biblical trust as active faith based on reasonable evidence. Our faith examines all the evidence and accepts the best conclusion or explanation for those facts. Based on those definitions, how does Paul say our faith relates to God and creation? (This question is designed to show the difference between just “feeling” or “believing” something and engaging your mind to “understand” it.) Paul says that by faith, a logical examination of the evidence, we understand that the universe is created by God. The word understand implies the use of our minds in accepting God as the creator. Paul tells us we know that God created the universe based on the reasonable

evidence that we can see (Romans 1:18-20). This "understanding" is not simply a feeling or a leap of faith, but a logical conclusion.

What is Paul talking about when he says the things we see did not come from anything that can be seen?

Paul is talking about creation out of nothing. He is saying we come to the logical conclusion that God created everything that we see out of "no-things" or nothing. This is the doctrine of *creatio ex nihilo*.

What evidence would lead us to understand that God created out of nothing?

6. Read Romans 1:18-21. What does this passage imply about everyone's knowledge of God? Paul tells us here that everyone knows God. Every person has an awareness of God because God has revealed in them and in creation both who He is and His power. Base on this passage, there is no such thing as a real atheist.

a) Is there such thing as a true atheist (someone who honestly believes there is no God)?

Based on these verses, Paul seems to indicate that there is no such thing as a person who has no knowledge of God. Those who claim to deny God reject the truth. Even though they "know God," they refuse to acknowledge or worship Him. But the reality is that everyone has a knowledge of God. Atheists, if they are really honest with themselves, are suppressing the truth that they know.

b) How is God revealed apart from the Bible?

(If someone had no access to a Bible, could they know there is a God and how could they know that?)

In creation, in humans (we are made in His image), by experience, in morality...

c) What specific things in creation would you point to that reveal God?

7. Read Heb 11:6 and John 17:3. The first step to pleasing God is understanding that "He is" or that He exists. After that, the highest aim of life according to Jesus is knowing God or diligently seeking Him. That implies that in order to please God, each of us has a duty to be a theologian [a person who studies God and his character]. What do you think about being a theologian? Have you ever considered that before?

Every Christian should identify themselves as a theologian. That is the greatest thing we can do in life. God made us to know Him!

How are you actively seeking God and growing in your theology?

8. Pastor Randy discussed reasonable evidence as a foundation for your faith and a guard against doubts. What part of Christianity or idea about God has caused you the most doubt or have you struggled to believe? If you have dealt with this doubt, how did you work through it? (This is an application question to get people thinking about what causes them to doubt and hopefully expressing it to the group. DO NOT feel like you need to answer each person's doubts. This is designed to get people talking but that doesn't mean that every struggle needs to be solved right away. Encourage people to research their doubts on their own or talk to a pastor.)