

ONE QUESTION FOR GOD |



4 WEEKS STARTING 6TH SEPTEMBER

Brief Responses to some of the Questions our Community asked us last year...

How do you get your head around the fact that God has no beginning - that he has always existed?

Faith is required for both belief in the existence of God and the non-existence of God. We are used to exercising faith in all areas of our lives. This is a hard one to grapple with, and is where faith comes in. If believing in God was all about accepting proven fact, then it would be a science. But having 'faith' in something means acting as though you believe something is trustworthy even through you can't see it. Like having faith in a surgeon's skills or faith in a bridge you've never crossed before to hold your car's weight. It's art of being human: accepting realities and having faith in the unseen, as for Christians, that means faith that God does, and has always, existed.

Why are some Christians such hypocrites?

All Christians, like all people, have moments of hypocrisy. If you live up to your ideals perfectly, we would love your advice about how you do it, and you don't need God or us.

How come there is war & hate in this world?

There are of course many reasons, but a fundamental one is that our sin (separation from God) alienates us from God, our environment, and other people.

Does God believe in evolution?

This is a great question. Evolution has been described and articulated as a science and was first proposed by Darwin. It was at great pains that he described natural selection, as he knew it would grate against the church's account of creation (one where God made the entire created world in 7 literal days). Many, if not most, Christians accept that the theory of evolution is scientific fact and hold both a God-created world and evolution to be simultaneously true. The creation story in the first book of the bible is a poetic, allegorical portrait of God weaving everything from nothing. It answers the questions of "who created?" and "why?". Evolution answers the questions of "how we were created?" and "when?". If that process included a Big Bang, natural selection or any others scientifically validated process, then most of us are happy to hold them all to be true. In my mind, God created evolution.

Will I go to hell?

Do you want to have nothing to do with God for eternity? If you don't, make Jesus your Lord (master) and Saviour (ask him to forgive your sin). If it is difficult to grasp what this means, or if you are uncertain about what is at stake, you would be wise to investigate his claims and the validity of them. We are more than happy to help you in whatever way you wish.

Why does God allow Satan to exist to work against his people?

We don't have a theoretical answer to the problems of evil. But a personal answer that is available is that a Christian who relies on Jesus can have strength to follow God, not Satan.

Why do I have more questions than answers?

That's a great question. Where does one look for answers? We would be happy to introduce you to where we have found answers about God, in the person of Jesus, recorded in the bible.

How do you reconcile the divine plan with atheism? i.e. if God has a plan for us, does he know/plan our journey to faith? (is it all simply a matter of free will being fundamental to faith?)

First, we prefer the phrase 'a measure of freedom' to free will, because we all face all sorts of constraints in our choices which the term 'free will' seems to trivialise. These are the influences of our family background, culture, medical condition, psychological health, etc. We do believe that for people to be held accountable to God they have to have a measure of freedom in how they respond. The bible doesn't really reconcile the tension between our measure of freedom and God's plans. It is helpful to listen to Jesus, who was once asked a general question about this, to which he gave a practical and personal answer. His disciples asked him why more people weren't following Him, at which point he could have answered your question. Instead he just said 'strive to enter the narrow gate [i.e. follow me]' (Luke 13:23-24).

Why is God so annoying?

No doubt God thinks the same about you. But he loves you so much that he came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ to seek out a relationship with you.

Why do so many people think that religion & science are enemies, not friends?

The way Christians explain this is to think of two 'books' God has given us. Nature and Scripture (the Bible) are two realities that cannot conflict, because God is the author of both (a song in the first half of the Bible, Psalm 19, attributes both to God). Science and Theology are the fallible human pursuits which seek to explain Nature and Scripture. Although Nature and Scripture cannot conflict, Science and Theology sometimes have. The better the science and theology get, the less contradictions there should be.

Where will I go after death?

When you die, you will be judged according to the life you have lived. Unfortunately, none of us can survive such a judgement, when our hidden thoughts and actions are included in the mix (as well as our open ones). But the good news is that all who ask for forgiveness from Jesus will receive it and go to heaven.

Join us for online church to find out answers to the
4 most popular questions from our community in 2020.

Starting Sunday 6th September

**Submit your own question for God online at
cbtb.org.au or neutralbay.church**