

Debating The Issues



Teen Workbook - Fourth Quarter 2026
Forum Terrace Church of Christ Grand Prairie, Texas

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The Existence of God

Proposition Against: Be it resolved that God does NOT exist.

Argument 1: Man invented God.

- 1) What kind of God does man make when he invents his own deity?
 - Romans 1:21-23 - *21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*
 - Isaiah 44:13-17 - *The craftsman stretches out his rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it like the figure of a man, According to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. 14 He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it. 15 Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships it; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. 16 He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." 17 And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"*
 - Acts 17:29 - *"Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.*

Argument 2: Science can explain the beginning of the universe and origin of life without the need for a Divine Creator like the God of the Bible.

- 2) Is evolution a proven fact or a working theory or merely a hypothesis? Explain your answer.

Argument 3: The existence of evil, pain and suffering proves there cannot be a loving, all-powerful God as described in the Bible.

- 3) What is the origin of evil and death?
 - ◆ Gen. 1:31 - *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*
 - ◆ Rom. 5:12 - *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—*
 - ◆ Rom. 8:28 - *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

- 4) Does God allow pain and suffer for our good? If so, what good comes from it.
- ◆ James 1:2 - *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*
 - ◆ Job 1:1,12 - *1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. ...12 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.*
 - ◆ Job 2:6 - *And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he [Job] is in your hand, but spare his life."*
 - ◆ 2 Cor. 12:7-10 - *7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Argument 4: God cannot be seen. Therefore, God does not exist.

- 5) Why can God not be seen?
- John 4:24 - *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*
 - 1 Tim. 1:17 - *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever.*
- 6) List other things that cannot be seen but to exist.

Proposition For: Be it resolved that God does exist.

Argument 1: _____

- 7) Form the first argument on the lines above for God's existence by reading:
- Psalm 19:1-4 - *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,*
 - Romans 1:18-20 - *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being*

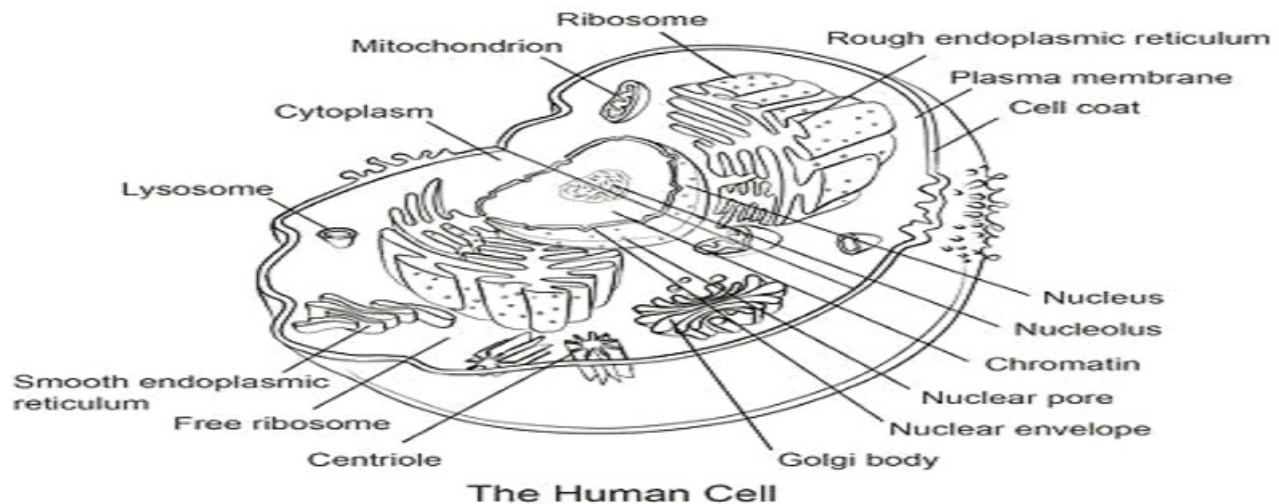
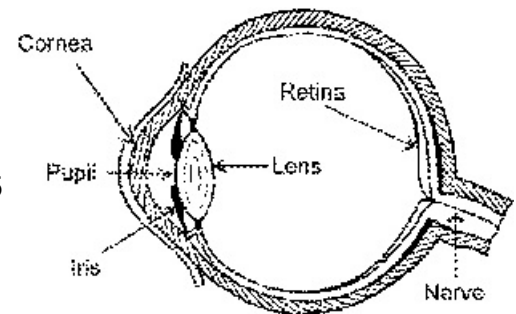
understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Argument 2: The evidence of intelligent design in the universe and life point to the necessity of an Intelligent Designer.

- 8) Can you imagine the house you live in to have come about by just time and chance without an architect or builder? Read Hebrews 3:4- *For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.*
- 9) Consider the Design of the human eye or even the detail of a cell human cell or the unique attributes of the solar system which allow life to exist on earth. Could this logically just come about by mere time and chance?

The Earth is in a perfect position in the solar system and the galaxy to support life.

- ▶ Earth has a just the right atmosphere
- ▶ Earth has just the right size and type of Sun and moon.
- ▶ Earth contains all the just the right forms of water
- ▶ Earth has just the right maximum tilt from the sun at 23.5 degrees
- ▶ Earth has a just the right surface temperature
- ▶ Earth has a just the right rotation period



Argument 3: The Kalam Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God: The Uncaused Cause

10) Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

Premise 2: The universe began to exist.

Therefore, _____.

Argument 4: The existence of Laws in Science and Math Demand a _____ .

- ▶ James 4:12 - *There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?*
- ▶ Isaiah 33:22 - *For the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver, The Lord is our King; He will save us);*

Argument 4: _____

11) Form an argument for God's existence based on the following:

- ◆ John 1:3 - *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

Argument 5: Something must be eternal or always having existed. It is either material or spiritual. It is more logical to believe that _____ is eternal.

- ◆ Psalm 90:2 - *Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*
- ◆ Romans 1:20 - *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

Discussion:

12) Can anyone prove there is no God? Why is it foolish to claim there is no God?

- ◆ Psalm 14: 1 - *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.*

The Bible Is the Word of God

Proposition Against: The Bible is NOT from God but is the product of mere men.

Argument 1: The Bible is filled in contradictions between various passages. If God is perfect, how can He be the author of the Bible.

1) Who Killed Goliath, David or Elhanan? Why the apparent discrepancy?

- **1 Sam. 17:50** - *So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.*
- **2 Samuel 21:19 (Masoretic text)** - *Elhanan the son of Yaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam."*
- **1 Chr. 20:5** - *Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. (NKJV)*

2) Did Christ spend three days in Hell? Why the apparent discrepancy?

- **Acts 2:27 (KJV)** - *Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*
- **Acts 2:27 (NKJV)** - *For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

3) Why are 24,000 said to have died at Ball-Peor, while 1 Cor. 10:8 reports it as 23,000? Why the apparent discrepancy?

- **Number 25:9** - *And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.*
- **1 Cor. 10:8** - *Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;*

Argument 2: The Bible is contains scientific errors. If God is perfect knowledge, how can He be the author of the Bible.

4) Does the Bible Teach the Earth is Flat?

- **Gen. 15:17** - *And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark...*
- **Gen. 19:23** - *The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.*
- **Rev. 7:1** - Passages says there are “four corners” to the earth,
- **Is. 40:22** - *It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*

Argument 3: The Bible is has many historical errors. If God is eternal, how can He be the author of the Bible.

5) Critics derided the Bible because of its frequent references to the Hittites - 47 times. Yet there was not evidence in history to support their existence. Until in 1906 archaeologists unearthed massive amounts of archaeological evidence Hittite nation (1600-717 BC). What does this say in regard to the many claims against the Bible’s so-called historical errors?

Argument 4: The Bible is a compilation of various ancient myths.

6) There are several similarities between the flood story told in the Gilgamesh epic of ancient Babylon and Noah’s Flood in the Bible. What might account for these? Keep in mind there are nearly 300 flood myths found around the globe. Many of these also share similarities with that of the flood recorded in the Bible. What is a possible explanation?

Proposition Against: The Bible is from God and could not have been written by mere mortal men.

Argument 1: The Unity of the Bible demonstrates that it is not he product of mere men but God.

- 7) How many books in the Bible?
- 8) How Testaments in the Bible?
- 9) How many books in each testament?
- 10) Job was written in 2000 B.C. and Revelation was written in 100 A.D. How long did it take to write

the books of the Bible?

- 11) Name the occupations of the various Bible writers.

Moses _____ David _____

Nehemiah _____ Ezra _____

John _____ Luke _____

- 12) What is the Central Theme of the Bible?

- 13) Considering all the books of the Bible, the various occupations of the writers, who wrote on three different contents in three different languages over two thousands years to come up with a single book with a central theme and character. All this unity in such diversity can only be explained by.....?

Argument 2: The archaeological findings support the history recorded in Scripture.

- 14) Was Pilate a real historical Roman governor in the first century?

- In 1961 a fragment of stone bearing his name was found in Caesarea. The stone had been re-used in some steps of the Roman theater there, but was originally a dedication stone for some sort of building that Pilate had erected in honor of Tiberias Caesar.
- The remaining portion of the inscription reads

...S TIBERIUM
....TIUS PILATUS
.....ECTUS IUDA.E 45

- Nelson Glueck: As a matter of fact, however, it may be clearly stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted a single biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible."

Argument 3: The fulfilled prophecies point to the Bible Divine origin.

- 15) About 720 B.C. Isaiah prophesied: *"Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd. And he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, 'You shall be built,' And to the temple, 'You foundation shall be laid.'" Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held - To subdue the nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:"* (Is. 44:28; 45:1). The Cyrus Cylinder was found

in and it clearly shows this to be the Medo/Persian kings policy. Zerubbabel returned to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem in 538 B.C. How many years were there between Isaiah prophecies and its fulfillment? What can be the explanation for this?

Argument 4: The scientific foreknowledge in the Bible show it is from God the Creator and Author of all the Law of Nature.

- 16) The book, *Matthew Fontain Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas*, by C. L. Lewis was published in 1927 by the U.S. Naval Institute. It tells the remarkable story of the birth of a science straight out of the pages of the Bible. When Maury (1806-1873) was sick in bed. His son was reading to him from Psalm eight. When he read verse eight "The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas." Maury stopped him and had him read it again. He "took God at His word". If God said there were paths of the sea then they must be there. At this time there were no sailing lanes nor charts of the sea. A few years after he regained his health Maury began to chart ocean winds and ocean currents these proved invaluable to the science of marine navigation. He was the first to recognize that the seas were circulating systems with interaction between wind and water. His book on *The Physical Geography of the Sea* (1855) is still considered a basic text for studies of the sort. In his home town of Fredericksburg, Virginia stands a statue to his honor. He is seen holding his charts in one hand and the Bible in the other. How is it that the Psalmist could have known about the "paths of the sea" and the science of oceanography?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Proposition Against: Jesus was NOT the Son of God or deity, he was just a mere man.

Argument 1: Jesus was just a mythological invention by Jews in the second century.

1) Highlight the aspect of Christ's life being supported by the ancient writers.

- Josephus (Jewish historian for the Romans): "He was (the) Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that love him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day."
- Tacitus's Annals: "Christ, who was executed under Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius"
- Cornelius Tacitus: "A wise man who was called Jesus...Pilate condemned Him to be condemned and to die."
- Thallus (AD 52), "When discussing the darkness which fell upon the land during the crucifixion of Christ," spoke of it as an eclipse.
- Lucian, speaks of Christ as "The man who was crucified in Palestine because he introduced a new cult into the world." He called him the "crucified sophist."
- The "Letter of Mara Bar Serapion" (AD 73): "What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise King?"
- The Roman writer, Phlegon, in his Chronicles wrote, "Jesus while alive, was of no assistance to himself but that he arose after death, and exhibited the marks of his punishment, and showed how his hands had been pierced by nails."
- The Jewish Talmud, pub. 1943 p. 42: "Jesus was crucified one day before the Passover. We warned Him for 40 days that He would be killed because He was a magician and planned to deceive Israel with His delusions. Whoever wished to do so was asked to defend him, and when none did, He was crucified on the eve of the Passover."

Argument 2: Jesus never claimed to be the Son of God. Later disciples made this up long after his death.

2) Highlight what is said about Jesus' deity and who made the claim or statement.

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:23 - "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

John 1:32a-34 - And John bore witness, saying, "And I have seen and testified that this

is the Son of God."

John 1:49 - "Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Matthew 3:17 - And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Mark 5:7-8 - 7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." 8 For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"

Matthew 16:13b-16 - He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

John 10:31-33 - Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

Matthew 17:5 - While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Mark 14:61-62 - Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" 62 Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Mark 15:39 - So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

John 20:28 - And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Argument 3: Jesus did not resurrect from the tomb. He merely swoon or passed out and later revived in the tomb. He could not have resurrected, because he never died.

3) How does the list of events below prove Jesus did die and was resurrected.

- He was scourged by the Romans.
- His legs were not broken to hasten his death on the Sabbath.
- The Romans were experts at crucifixion.
- A spear was thrust through his side and out flowed blood and water.
- He was wrapped in burial clothes and at least forty pounds of spices.
- There was a sealed rock in front of the tomb.
- There were sixteen Roman soldiers guarding the tomb.
- He was in the tomb three days without food or water.
- He was seen to be well and health that Sunday may several who knew him best.

Proposition For: Jesus was more than just a man, He was the Son of God.

Argument 1: Fulfilled Prophecy

4) Make a list of all the prophecy Jesus fulfilled.

Argument2: Jesus resurrection is proof of His deity.

5) Highlight in the passages below those who witnesses to Jesus resurrection.

- **John 20:18** - Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.
- **Luke 24:34** - saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."
- **Luke 24:13-31** - And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them.
- **John 20:19** - So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."
- **John 20:26** - After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."
- **John 21:1** - After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.
- **Matthew 28:16-17** - But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.
- **1 Corinthians 15:6-8** - After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

Argument 3: Jesus life, death, and resurrection has changed the lives of many men and women and the world.

- 6) How did Jesus change the lives of the Twelve?
- 7) How did Jesus change the life of Paul (1 Tim. 1:12-15)?
- 8) What changes or effects has the life of Jesus had on the world?
- 9) What effect or changes has Christ had in your life?

Argument 4: Jesus was who he claimed to be or a lunatic or a liar.

- 10) Evaluate the argument by C.S. Lewis below.

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

Truth & Morality

Proposition Against: There are no absolute moral or truths.

Argument 1: Every man must determine for himself what is right or wrong in any given situation. Even the Bible teaches this in the justified lie told by Rahab to the authorities about the two spies (Joshua 2:3ff) and the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11).

- 1) Read the following verses and see if they praise Rahab for lying or something else.
 - **James 2:25** - *Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?*
 - **Hebrews 11:31** - *By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.*
- 2) Read the verses below. Did Jesus approve of the woman's adultery? Explain.
 - **John 8:7-11** - *7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up[a] and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

Argument 2: Truth is subjective and one person's truth is equally valid as another's truth.

- 1) Opposite truth claims cannot both be true. If the Christian believes Jesus died on the Cross and Muslim believes Jesus did not die on the Cross, both cannot be right. What are some other such examples?
- 2) What does the Bible teach about truth?
 - **Proverbs 14:12** - *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*
 - **Isaiah 5:20** - *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

- **Jeremiah 10:23** - *O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.*
- **John 14:6** - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
- **John 8:31-32** - *31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

3) If truth is relative and subjective can there be such a thing as a lie? Explain.

Proposition For: Truth is objective and absolute.

Argument 1: The claim stating truth is relative and not absolute is an illogical argument.

- 1) Why can't anyone honestly state that the believe with absolutely certainty that truth is relative and subjective?

Argument 2: Absolute Truth is something true for all people, at all times and in all places. These truths exist in science, math, and morality.

- 1) What are some absolute truths of science?
- 2) What are some absolute truths of math?
- 3) What are some absolute truths of morality?

Argument 3: The existence of a universal consciousness of a conscience. In other words, all men are aware there are right things to do and wrong things not to do.

- 1) How can we account for this?

Abortion

Proposition For: Abortion is the personal choice of a woman and is not murder.

Argument 1: Abortion is merely the removal of unwanted fetal matter just like a woman would have a doctor remove a tumor.

- 1) Medical science understands a pregnancy to involve a new human life developing in a mother's womb.
 - "The life cycle of mammals begins when a sperm enters an egg." Okada et al., A role for the elongator complex in zygotic paternal genome demethylation, NATURE 463:554 (Jan. 28, 2010)
 - "In that fraction of a second when the chromosomes form pairs, the sex of the new child will be determined, hereditary characteristics received from each parent will be set, and a new life will have begun." (Kaluger, G., and Kaluger, M., Human Development: The Span of Life, page 28-29, The C.V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1974).
 - "Although it is customary to divide human development into prenatal and postnatal periods, it is important to realize that birth is merely a dramatic event during development resulting in a change in environment."
 - (The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology fifth edition, Moore and Persaud, 1993, Saunders Company, page 1),
 - Landrum B. Shettles, M.D., P.h.D. was first scientist to succeed at in vitro fertilization: "The zygote is human life....there is one fact that no one can deny; Human beings begin at conception."

Argument 2: A woman should have a right to do with her body anything she wants including aborting a fetus.

- 2) Read the following passage and make a list of names of men whom God knew as individuals distinct from their mothers.
 - ◆ **Jeremiah 1:5** - *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*
 - ◆ **Psalms 139:13-16** - *For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.*

- ♦ **Job 10:8-12** - *'Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet You would destroy me. 9 Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again? 10 Did You not pour me out like milk, And curdle me like cheese, 11 Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews? 12 You have granted me life and favor, And Your care has preserved my spirit.*
- ♦ **Luke 1:43-44** - *43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.*
- ♦ **Isaiah 49:1** - *"Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.*

3) Read the following and form an answer to this argument.

- "In that fraction of a second when the chromosomes form pairs, [at conception] the sex of the new child will be determined, hereditary characteristics received from each parent will be set, and a new life will have begun."(Kaluger, G., and Kaluger, M., Human Development: The Span of Life, page 28-29, The C.V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1974)
- "At the moment of conception half of the child's forty-six chromosomes come from his biological father, half from his mother. He is genetically just as much like his father as he is his mother".
- Just as no two people have identical fingerprints the mother's and the developing child in her womb have distinct fingerprints.
- The mother is always female, but the baby can be either female or male or in the case of fraternal twins a male and female.
- The unborn possesses separate circulatory, nervous, and endocrine systems.
- A fertilized egg from a Japanese parents implanted in a French woman's womb will always be Japanese and never French.
- An unborn child can die and the mother live. A mother can be brain dead for several months and a child can still be born alive.

Argument 3: In the case of pregnancy due to rape or incest, forcing a woman not to have the option of abortion by this violent act would cause further psychological harm to the victim.

4) How would you answer this?

- "The fetus within this time frame of gestation, 20 weeks and beyond, is fully capable of experiencing pain....without question, all of this is a dreadfully painful experience for any infant subjected to such a surgical procedure." (Professor Robert White, Senate judiciary committee hearing no. 31, June 15, 1995, 70. Quoted in Troy Clark, Ph.D. Abortion Every 90 Seconds: The Whole Story (Kindle, 2015)

Proposition Against: Abortion is the murder of an innocent human being.

Argument 1: God and the Bible consider the taking of any innocent human life to be the sin of murder.

- 4) Highlight the statements made concerning the death of unborn babies which point to them being murdered and/or how God views the shedding of innocent blood.
- ☐ **Proverbs 6:16-17** - *These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood,*
 - ☐ **Amos 1:13** - *Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, That they might enlarge their territory.*
 - ☐ **Exodus 1:16-18** - *16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." 17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. 18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"*
 - ☐ **Psalms 106:37-40** - *They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood. Thus they were defiled by their own works, and played the harlot by their own deeds. Therefore the wrath of the Lord was kindled against His people, So that He abhorred His own inheritance.*

Argument 2: All human life is sacred to God even that of an unborn child..

- 5) Why is human life so sacred to God? How sacred is human life?
- ▶ **Genesis 2:7** - *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*
 - ▶ **Genesis 1:26-27** - *26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*
 - ▶ **Genesis 9:5-6** - *5 Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.*
 - ▶ **Exodus 21:22-25** - *22 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

Homosexuality

Proposition For: God and the Bible approve of homosexuality.

Argument 1: Men and women can be born homosexual.

- 1) Read the following facts about homosexuality from science and the Bible, and form a counter argument.
 - **Gen. 2:18,21-22** - *And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ...21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*
Matthew 19:4-6 - *4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."*
- 2) Is there a homosexual gene? Explain after read the facts below.
 - George Ebers of the University of Western Ontario examined 52 pairs of gay brothers, and found "no evidence for a linkage of homosexuality to marker on the X-chromosome or elsewhere." (Gay Genes Revised: Doubts arise on the Research on the Biology of Homosexuality, *Scientific American*, November 1995, p. 26).
 - Identical twins have the same genetic make-up yet one will be heterosexual and the other homosexual.
 - Evan S. Balaban, a neurobiologist at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego, noted that "the search for the biological underpinnings of complex human traits has a sorry history of late. In recent years, researchers and the media have proclaimed the "discovery" of genes linked to alcoholism and mental illness as well as to homosexuality. None of the claims...has been confirmed" (Horgan, John (1995), "Gay Genes, Revisited," *Scientific American*, 273[5]:26, November).

Argument 2: True homosexual men and women cannot change their true sexual nature.

- 3) At the church of Corinth were there some who had been homosexuals? How were they able to change?
 - **1 Cor. 6:9-11** - *9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals,[a] nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

- 4) Read the following and highlight what is involved in homosexuals being able to change their conduct.
- ◆ Dr. Irving Bieber concluded after treating more than one hundred homosexuals concluded that “a heterosexual shift is a possibility for all homosexuals who are strongly motivated to change.” (Ruben Fine Psychoanalytic Theory, Male and Female Homosexuality: Psychological Approaches (New York: Hemisphere, 1982), p. 84,86.
- ◆ Stanton Jones, Chair of Psychology at Wheaton College said, “anyone who says there is no hope [for change] is either ignorant or a liar. Every secular study of change has shown some success rate, and persons who testify to substantial healings by God are legion.” (Stanton Jones, The Living Opposition, Christianity Today, 19 July 1993).

Argument 3: The Bible speaks of homosexual relationship among those men and women considered faithful and righteous.

- 4) Ruth and Naomi are said to be such a gay couple. They use phrases like “she kissed them” (1:9); “Ruth clung to her” (1:14); and “where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay” (1:16). Read below and give an answer.
 - **Ruth 4:13** - *So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.*
- 5) Based on the passages below some argue that David and Jonathan were a same-sex couple. What kind of relationship did these two really have?
 - **1 Sam. 18:1-2** - *Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.*
 - **1 Sam. 19:1b***Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David.*
 - **2 Sam. 1:26** - *I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; you have been very pleasant to me; your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women.*
- 6) Advocates for the above argument also say that Jesus and John were a homosexual couple. They use the verses below to prove this point. How would you answer this? (Also see John 13:23-25).
 - **John 13:23** - Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.
 - **John 19:26** - When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!”
 - **John 20:2** - Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus

loved,

- **John 21:20** - Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following,
Proposition Against: God and the Bible regard homosexuality as a sinful abomination.

Argument 1: The Bible condemns homosexuality as sinful.

- 7) Highlight what the Bible calls homosexuality and the consequences of practicing it.
- ▶ **Leviticus 18:22** - You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.
 - ▶ **Lev. 20:13-15** - *13 If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. 14 If a man marries a woman and her mother, it is wickedness. They shall be burned with fire, both he and they, that there may be no wickedness among you. 15 If a man mates with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal.*
 - ▶ **Romans 1:26-17** - *26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*
 - ▶ **1 Tim. 1:9-10** - *9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers 10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,*
 - ▶ **Jude 1:7** - *as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

Argument 2: God does not permit homosexual marriage.

- 8) How does the Bible define marriage?
- **1 Corinthians 7:2** - *Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.*
 - **Eph. 5:31** - *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

Drinking Alcohol

Proposition For: The Bible approves of the consumption of alcoholic beverages so long as it is done in moderation and one does not get drunk.

Argument 1: Jesus turned water into wine in His first miracle at Cana in John 2:2:1-16.

- 1) The wedding guest “had too much to drink” (NIV) before Jesus turned water into wine. Drunkenness was a sin even for Jews (Proverbs 23:29f). Did Jesus make 155 gallons of alcoholic beverage for those who had already drank too much? Is this not a contradiction with His perfect character and mission to save sinners? What is the possible explanation to this dilemma?
- 2) According to verse 11 why did Jesus perform this miracle? (See John 20:30,31)
- 3) The Greek word for “wine” is oinos. It can mean either “grape juice” or “intoxicating beverage.” The context determines the meaning. What does context of John 2 indicate concerning the meaning of “wine” or oinos?

Argument 2: Paul instructed Timothy to *“No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities”* (1Tim 5:23).

- 4) Read the following quote and form an rebuttal to this argument.
 - Ferrar Renton in his “The Bible and Wine” said, “stomach wine” or wine for the stomach; the old writers upon Greek medicine tell us, was grape juice, prepared as a thick, unfermented syrup, for use as a medicament for dyspeptic and weak persons, and there cannot be a doubt but that was the wine for the stomach; the apostle told his friend to use.”

Argument 3: The Bible Does Not Say “Thou shalt not drink any alcoholic beverages.”

- 5) Read the following and form an argument.

- **1 Peter 4:3** - *"For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles - when we walked in licentiousness, lusts, **drunkenness**, **revelries**, **drinking parties**, and abominable idolatries."*

"Drunkenness" is from the Greek **oinophlugia** which means "completely drunk"

"Revelries" is from the Greek **komos** and means "half drunk"

"Drinking parties" is from the Greek word **potos** which means "drinking without regard to amount"

Argument 4: When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper He commanded His disciples to observing it by drinking wine.

6) Read the quote below and form and response to this argument.

- By definition, grapes are the fruit of the grape vine. The grape is composed of an outer skin, juice vesicles, and sometimes seeds. When the grapes are hanging on the vine the juice is unfermented, and hence, unfermented juice is truly the fruit of the vine. In order to obtain fermented juice, the grape skin must be broken and the yeast spores contact the juice. Alcohol is not found in whole grapes on the vine, so fermented juice is not the fruit of the vine but rather the fruit of bacteria acting on the juice. By this reasoning, fermented juice is no longer fruit of, the vine, but something different and, hence, unscriptural for use in the Lord's Supper. (Lawson Winton, Fermented or Unfermented Fruit of the Vine? TRUTH MAGAZINE, XV: 8, pp. 10-11, December 24, 1970).

Proposition Against: The Bible condemns the drinking of any alcoholic beverages.

Argument 1: Christians are commanded to be sober-minded or temperate at all times. Alcoholic beverages are contrary to this command.

7) Highlight how it drinking hinders sober-mindedness.

- ◆ Consider how alcohol attacks the brain. "First, alcohol affects the forebrain and assaults motor coordination and decision making. Then, alcohol knocks out the midbrain, and you lose control over emotions and increase chances of a blackout. Finally, alcohol batters the brainstem as it affects heart rate, body temperature, appetite and consciousness, a dangerous and potentially fatal condition."
- ◆ "Alcohol acts like a anesthetic dulling areas of the brain that enable people to make sensible decisions, resulting in poor judgment."
- ◆ "Drinking impairs your judgment, which increases the likelihood that you will do something you will later regret such as having sex, being involved in date rape,

damaging property, or being victimized by others."

8) Highlight who is to be sober-minded.

- ◆ **1 Timothy 3:2** - *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;*
- ◆ **Titus 1:8** - *but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,*
- ◆ **Titus 2:2** - *that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;*
- ◆ **Titus 2:6** - *Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,*

Argument 2: The Bible condemns the abusing of the body. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body[a] and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Alcoholic beverages abuse the body. Therefore, the Bible condemns the use of alcoholic beverages.

9) Match alcohols affects upon the human body.

Permanent
brain damage

High Blood
Pressure

Peptic ulcer

Inflammation of
the intestines

Red nose

high frequency
of tuberculosis

damages the
bone marrow

Throat cancer



Osteoporosis

Muscle weakness

Early diabetes

Decline in IQ

Fatty Heart

Cirrhosis of
the liver

"beer belly"

Lose of motor
coordination

Blurred/double
vision

Argument 3: Alcohol is addictive. Christians are not to be addicted to anything.

10) What are the consequences of being enslaved to something like alcohol? Highlight them.

- **2 Peter 2:19** - *While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.*
- **Romans 6:19** - *I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.*
- **John 8:34** - *Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."*
- **1 Cor. 9:27** - *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

11) Highlight the affects of alcohol on the drinker.

- Proverbs 23: 29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. 34 Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: 35 "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

Hell

Proposition Against: Hell is NOT a real place where God sends the wicked to be punished throughout all eternity.

Argument 1: God is too loving to send a soul to suffer in Hell for eternity.

- 1) Read the passages below and explain how a loving Father could send his only Son to the cross and suffer crucifixion?
 - **John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
 - **Hebrews 5:8** - *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*
 - **1 Peter 3:18** - *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,*

- 2) Do sinners have an opportunity to avoid Hell? Highlight what they must do.
 - **2 Peter 3:9** - *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*
 - **Acts 2:38** - *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
 - **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** - *9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

- 3) Highlight the reasons why some will not be saved from eternal punishment.
 - **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** - *7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

- **Isaiah 59:1-2** - 1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy,
- That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.
- **Matthew 7:21-23** - 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Argument 2: Hell is the annihilation of the soul.

- 4) Do the wicked dead have consciousness after death? Highlight the parts of the passage which show that the rich man was aware after death.
 - **Luke 16:22-31** - 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' 27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"
- 5) Is it possible for something or someone to be burned with fire without being annihilated? Explain.
 - **Dan 3:23,26-31** - 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace....26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. 27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.
 - **Exodus 3:2** - And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

6) Highlight the evidence that souls of the wicked will suffer after death.

- ◆ **Rev 20:10** - *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*
- ◆ **Rev 14:10-11** - *10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*
- ◆ **Jude 13** - *raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*
- ◆ **Rev 22:15** - *But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*
- ◆ **Matt 25:46** - *And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Argument 3: God will save everyone.

7) Read the following verses and form a rebuttal to this argument.

- ▶ **Acts 4:12** - *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
- ▶ **John 14:6** - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
- ▶ **John 3:16,36** - *16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ...36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*
- ▶ **1John 5:12** - *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Argument 4: Eternity is too long to punish the wicked . It is unjust to punish a man eternally for sins committed in so short of time.

- 8) What is God and the Bible's view on the negative nature and affect of sin? Highlight what the Bible verses say.
- **Hebrews 10:26-31** - 26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
- 9) Is it logical to allow the criminal to sentence himself? Is it wise to permit the defense attorney to sentence his client? Explain.

Proposition For: Hell is a real place where God will send the wicked to be punished throughout all eternity.

Argument 1: Jesus taught and believed in an eternal Hell for the wicked.

- 4) Highlight what Jesus said about Hell.
- **Matthew 13:41-42, 49-50** - 41 *The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*
 - **Mark 9:43, 48-49** - 43 *If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— ...48 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'* 49 *"For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.*
 - **Matthew 22:13** - *Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*
 - **Matthew 25:46** - *And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*
 - **Luke 16:23** - *And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw*

Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

- **Luke 12:5** - *But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!*

3) True or False Jesus taught more about Hell than He did about Heaven.

Argument 2: God is love (1 John 4:8) but God is also just. And justice demands that all sin is either punished or forgiving.

10 Why is God a just judge of man and man responsible for his own future in eternity?

- **Ezekiel 18:25-32** - 25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? 26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 27 Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. 28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? 30 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live”

Instrumental Music in Worship

Proposition For: The use of mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship is authorized by the Bible.

Argument 1: "The Worship in the Old Testament included instrumental music, therefore the worship services of the church can include them."

- 1) Read the scriptures below and form a rebuttal for this argument.
- ♦ Col. 2:14 - *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*
- ♦ Heb. 9:16-17 - *16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.*

Argument 2: "There are harps in heaven, and it would be inconsistent for god to approve them in his presence in heaven and disapprove them in the church (cf. Rev. 5:8,9; 14:1-4)."

- 2) List some other things which will be found in heaven which we not be found in the church.
- 3) Is the Book of Revelation really describing a physical place when it talks of Heaven? Explain.

Argument 3: The Bible Does Not Say: "Thou Shalt Not Use Instrumental Music In Worship" During the reformation movement Martin Luther contended that, "We are at liberty to do anything which is not expressly forbidden by the scriptures"

- 4) Does the silence authorize or does one need commandments from the Lord? Read the following verses:
 - ♦ Mt. 7:21-23 - *21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

- ◆ Lev. 10:1-3 - *Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace.*
- ◆ 1 Cor. 1:10 - *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
- ◆ Heb. 7:14 - *For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.*

- 5) Make of list of other activities which are not specifically condemned in worship with a "Thou shalt not..." in the Bible, such as: serving hamburgers for the Lord's Supper.

Argument 4: "God Gave Us Talents to Glorify Him in Worship. God Is Displeased with Those Who Bury Their Talents. Therefore, God Is Displeased with Those Who Don't Use Their Talents in Playing Instruments in Worship."

- 6) What was Abel's talent and Cain's in Gen. 4:2f? Which man's offering was accepted?

Gen. 4:2-4 - Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

- 7) List some talents men and women possess which would not be accepted in worship.

Argument 5: "The Greek word for 'sing' in Ephesians 5:19 is *psallo* which means 'sing with the accompaniment of instruments.' Therefore, singing with the accompaniment of instruments of music is by New Testament authority."

- 8) Did Paul and Silas "sing with the accompaniment of instruments" in Acts 16:25: "*But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them*". Explain.

- 9) Read the following definitions of the Greek word *psallo*. Does their definition include instruments? Why the difference between these definitions and that of those who support the use of the instrument?
- "The Greek word *psallo* is applied among the Greeks of modern times exclusively to sacred music, which in the Eastern church has never been any other than vocal, instrumental music being unknown in that church, as it was in the primitive church." (M'Clintock & Stong, Cyclopaedia, vol. 8, p. 739).
 - "*psallo*, to chant, sing religious hymns." (E.A. Sophocles, Greek Lexicon of the Roman and Byzantine Periods, p. 1178).
 - "...in the N.T. to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song,..." (Thayer, p. 675).
 - Green: "*Psallo*, - in the New Testament, to sing praises. Rom. 15:9, et al."
 - Analytical Greek lexicon: "*Psallo*, in the New Testament, to sing praise."
- 10) Highlight the "instrument" the worshiper is to sing or to pluck (*psallo*) in the following verses:
- Psalm 71:22 - *Also with the lute I will praise You—And Your faithfulness, O my God! To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.*
 - Ephesians 5:19 - *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

Argument 6: Most people like instrumental accompaniment when they worship in song.

- 11) Read the scriptures below and form a rebuttal for this argument.
- Isaiah 55:8-9 - *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*
 - Galatians 1:10 - *For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.*
 - John 4:23-24 - *23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

Proposition Against: The Use of Mechanical Instruments of Music in Christian Worship is NOT Authorized by the Bible.

Argument 1: Instrumental music does not fit the purpose of Singing.

- 1) Highlight the purpose of singing?

Eph. 5:19 - speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Col. 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Argument 2: Instrumental music is an addition to God's Word.

- 2) Why is adding to worship a problem?

Rev. 22:18-19 - or I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- 3) What other arguments are there to support the use of singing only in worship today?

Baptism & Salvation

Proposition Against: Baptism is NOT necessary for salvation from sin. One is saved by faith only.

Argument 1: Baptism is a work. Man cannot be saved by his works.

- 1) Is faith a work? What kind of work? Read **John 6:28-29** - 28 *Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"* 29 *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*
- 2) According to the scripture above what kind of work is faith?

Argument 2: The Bible states multiple times that salvation from sin is the result of faith only.

- 3) Do the falling verses teach salvation by faith only? Highlight what is necessary for salvation in these verses.
 - ▶ **John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
 - ▶ **Eph. 2:8-9** - *8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
 - ▶ **Mark 16:16** - *He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*
- 4) Only one verse mentions "faith only" in the New King James Version of the Bible. What does it teach in regard to faith only.
 - ▶ **James 2:24** - *You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.*

Proposition For: Baptism is necessary for salvation from sin.

- 5) Read the following scriptures and highlight what it says about baptism.
 - ▶ **Matthew 28:19** - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*
 - ▶ **Mark 16:16** - *He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

- ▶ **Acts 2:38** - *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
 - ▶ **Acts 2:41** - *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*
 - ▶ **Acts 22:16** - *And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’*
 - ▶ **Romans 6:3-4** - *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
 - ▶ **1 Corinthians 12:13** - *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*
 - ▶ **Galatians 3:27** - *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
 - ▶ **Ephesians 4:5** - *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*
 - ▶ **Colossians 2:12** - *buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*
 - ▶ **1 Peter 3:21** - *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
- 6) Read the following passages of conversion and highlight what each sinner was required to do.

Conversion of the Three Thousand on the Day of Pentecost

- ▶ **Acts 2:37** *Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* 38 *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* 39 *For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”* 41 *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

Conversion of the Samaritans and Simon the Sorcerer

- ▶ **Acts 8:** 12 *But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.* 13 *Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.*

Conversion of the Ethiopian

- ▶ **Acts 8** 34 *So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?”* 35 *Then Philip opened his*

mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Conversion of Lydia

- ▶ **Acts 16** 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Conversion of the Philippian Jailer

- ▶ **Acts 16** 29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

7) What is necessary for one to enter the Kingdom? What is this?

- ▶ **John 3:3-5** - 3 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* 4 *Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"* 5 *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

8) Read the following verses. What is the "washing" in these passages and what do they do for the one washed?

- ▶ **1 Cor. 6:9-11** - 9 *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

- ▶ **Eph. 5:25-27** - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing,*

but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- ▶ **Titus 3:5** - *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved*
- 9) From the passages above formulate three arguments to support the idea that baptism is necessary for the forgiveness of sins and salvation.

The Church of Christ

Proposition Against: The Church of Christ is not the original church but is a denomination founded by mere men.

Argument 1: The Church of Christ was founded by Alexander Campbell in the early 1800s in America. The members are Campbellites.

- 1) Alexander Campbell was born on September 12, 1788, in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. How old was he when the following events took place or how long before he was born?
 - ▶ When Barton W. Stone established churches of Christ in Kentucky in 1804, Campbell was just ____.
 - ▶
 - ▶ When Abner Jones and twenty Baptist congregations turned to the New Testament in 1802, Campbell was ____.
 - ▶
 - ▶ In 1793, when James O'Kelly split with the Methodist and started churches of Christ, Campbell was only ____.
 - ▶
 - ▶ In the early 1790's when Abner Jones and Elias Smith started their work in New Hampshire and Vermont, Campbell was only ____.
 - ▶
 - ▶ A historical marker at Revere Mass., a northeast suburb of Boston which says: (1710) Church of Christ in Rumney Marsh. Erected in 1710. Thomas Cheever, the first settled minister. Died Dec. 27, 1749 aged 91 years. Massachusetts Bay Colony, Tercentenary Commission. This was ____ years before Campbell was born.
- 2) What impact do these historical facts have on the argument above?

Argument 2: The Catholic Church was the original church of the New Testament.

- 3) Read the following and form an answer to this argument.
 - ▶ **Romans 16:16** - Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.
 - ▶ "Even though the Roman Catholic Church claims that the first Pope was Peter, many scholars argue that the actual first Pope was Gregory the Great. This is because the power of the papacy (papal supremacy) did not fully develop until around the time of Gregory the Great. Gregory the Great was born around the year 540 A.D. and died in 604 A.D. Gregory the Great became pope in the year 590 A.D."

Argument 3: All denominations are branches of the true vine Jesus Christ according to John 15.

- 4) Read the passage below and highlight all the pronouns ("he" and "you") which represent the branch(es).
- **John 15:1-8** - 1 *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

Proposition For: The Church of Christ is the church found in the New Testament.

Argument 1: The church of Christ was established on Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem according to prophecy.

- 5) How was the kingdom to come and who was to see it come? **Mark 9:1** - *And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."*
- 6) Where was the power to come to the apostles? Where was repentance and remission of sins to be preached to all nations? **Luke 24:46-49** - *Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*
- 7) Where were the apostles to wait for ten days till they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? **Acts 1:4-5** - *4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

- 8) On what day and where did the apostles receive the Holy Spirit? **Acts 2:1-4** - *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
- 9) What was preached in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost to the people from seventeen different nations? **Acts 2:38** - *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
- 10) When and where was the church of Christ or kingdom established?

Argument 2: Christ only established one church.

- 11) How many churches did Jesus promise to build? See **Matthew 16:18**: *"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."*
- 12) Complete the blanks in Ephesians 4:4-6 with the correct number?
"There is _____ body and _____ Spirit, just as you were called in _____ hope of your calling; _____ Lord, _____ faith, _____ baptism; _____ God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."
- 13) According to Ephesians 1:21-22 what is the "body"?
 ▶ **Ephesians 1:21-22** - *21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,*
- 14) Comparing this to Ephesians 4:4-6 how many churches are there?

15) Christ is the Bridegroom. What is His bride? How many brides does He have?

- ▶ Eph. 5: 23-27a - *23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church,*

Argument 3: The Church of Christ follows the teachings of Christ and His apostles found in the New Testament. Denominations do not. They are guided by the authority of their creeds, councils, etc.

17) Highlight the source of the church's authority in the verses below.

- ▶ **Col. 3:17** - *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*
- ▶ **Acts 2:42** - *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*
- ▶ **Eph. 5:23** - *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

Divorce

Proposition For: God approves of a marriage being terminated by divorce for just any reason.

Argument 1: “God wants me to be happy. He would not sentence me to live in an unhappy marriage.”

- 1) God does want us to be happy. Highlight was is involved in being happy or having joy according to the Will of God.
 - **James 1:2** - *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,*
 - **Phil. 4:4** - *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*
 - **Eccl. 9:9** - *Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.*
 - **Prov. 16:20** - *He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he.*
 - **Luke 10:20** - *Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”*
 - **Matthew 5:4** - *‘Happy the mourning -- because they shall be comforted. (Young’s Literal Translation)*
 - **Matthew 5:11-12** - *‘Happy are ye whenever they may reproach you, and may persecute, and may say any evil thing against you falsely for my sake – 12 rejoice ye and be glad, because your reward [is] great in the heavens... (Young’s Literal Translation)*

Argument 2: “What about those spouses who are physically or emotionally abusive. Or a spouse who has a drug addiction or is a criminal?”

- 2) Read the following and form a response.
 - **1 Peter 4:13-14** - *Be subject, then, to every human creation, because of the Lord, whether to a king, as the highest, 14 whether to governors, as to those sent through him, for punishment, indeed, of evil-doers, and a praise of those doing good; (Young’s Literal Translation)*
 - **1 Cor. 7:5** - *Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

Argument 3: “A married couple can divorce for just any reason so long as they do not remarrying.”
Proof text used is **1 Cor. 7:10,11** - *10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.*

- 3) If Paul is giving any reason for divorce (just son long as there is not remarriage) and Jesus only gives one reasons for divorce (sexual immorality) are they not in contradiction to each other? Explain why they cannot contradict each other.

Argument 4: “We have fallen out of love. Therefore we need to divorce and find love again.”

- 4) Read the passages below and give an alternative solution to divorce.
- **Eph. 5:25** - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,*
 - **Titus 2:3-4** - *the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*
 - **1 Cor. 13:4-8b** - *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails....*

Proposition Against: Jesus and the New Testament approve of divorce only in cases of adultery.

Argument 1: Marriage is one man and one woman for one lifetime with one exception.

- 5) Highlight the reasons Jesus gave as to why one cannot divorce their spouse for just any reason.
- **Matthew 19:3-9** - *The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” 4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” 7 They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” 8 He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce*

your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

- 6) What is the only other reason or way a marriage will end?
- **Romans 7:1-3** - *Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.*
- 7) According to Romans 7:1-3 why is one an adulterous if they remarry while their husband is still living?

Marijuana

Proposition For: There is nothing wrong with smoking or ingesting marijuana.

Argument 1: "Marijuana comes from a plant. A plant God created. Everything God made was good."
Proof text is **Genesis 1:29:** "*And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them as food.'*"

- 1) List other things which God has made which are not good or healthy to smoke, eat or drink.

Argument 2: "Marijuana is legal in many states."

- 2) List some other things which are legal to do, however are sinful to practice.

Argument 3: "Marijuana gives uses a pleasurable sense of calmness."

- 3) Highlight the Christians source of joy and calmness.

- **Romans 14:17** - *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*
- **Philippians 4:6-7** - *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
- **Romans 5:2** - *through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
- **Philippians 4:4** - *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*
- **Philippians 3:3** - *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,*
- **1 Peter 4:13** - *but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.*

Argument 4: “Marijuana is good for the health benefits it can provide.”

- 4) What are the other things used for health benefits which should not be used for recreational purposes or used as an uncontrolled substance.

Proposition Against: It is a sin for a Christian smoke or eat marijuana.

Argument 1: The Christian’s body is not to be abused but used to glorify God. **I Corinthians 6:18-20** - *18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

- 5) Highlight the areas of the body damaged or negatively effect by marijuana.
- According to the Mayo Clinic, marijuana smoke contains 50 to 70 percent more carcinogenic (cancer-causing) hydrocarbons than tobacco smoke and has the potential to cause cancer of the lungs and respiratory tract.
 - There is growing evidence that, for some, this sudden stress placed on the heart can cause a heart attack.
 - Daniel G. Amen, MD: “As the person who has probably seen more functional brain scans on marijuana users than any other human being, know that I often see a toxic appearance in chronic marijuana users, which looks like ‘holes’ or decreased activity and blood flow in the brain.”
 - THC, is stored in the fat cells of the body, Marijuana causes muscle atrophy at all ages; that is, the reduction of muscle strength.

Argument 2: _____

- 6) Read the following and form “Argument 2.”
- Research suggests that about 1 in 11 users becomes addicted to marijuana (Anthony, 1994; Lopez-Quintero 2011).
 - **Matthew 6:24** - *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*
 - **2 Peter 2:18** - *For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.*

Argument 3: Marijuana hinders the Christian from being _____ .

7) Read the passages below and fill in the blank on Argument 3.

- **Titus 2:11-12** - *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age"*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:2,6** - *2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*
- **1 Peter 1:13; 5:8** - *13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*
- **Titus 2:6** - *"Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded"*

Argument 4: Marijuana is known to hinder the users ability to grow and learn.

8) Highlight the how the Christian is to grow spiritually.

- **1 Peter 2:2** - *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,*
- **1 Corinthians 15:58** - *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*
- **Hebrews 12:1** - *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

Proof 1: Creation Demands a Creator. The Hubble telescope continues to reveal previously unknown galaxies. Our awesome universe simply astounds us. Under the night sky, King David of ancient Israel asked God: "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?" (Psalm 8:3–4).

Proof 2: Life Demands a Life-Giver

THE CONDITIONS FOR LIFE

1. The complexity of our planet points to a deliberate Designer who not only created our universe, but sustains it today.
3. The universe operates by uniform laws of nature. Why does it?

The Cosmological Argument

1. Everything that exists must have a cause.
2. The universe must have a cause (from 1).
3. Nothing can be the cause of itself.
4. The universe cannot be the cause of itself (from 3).
5. Something outside the universe must have caused the universe (from 2 & 4).
6. God is the only thing that is outside of the universe.
7. God caused the universe (from 5 & 6).
8. God exists.

2. The Ontological Argument

1. Nothing greater than God can be conceived (this is stipulated as part of the definition of "God").
2. It is greater to exist than not to exist.
3. If we conceive of God as not existing, then we can conceive of something greater than God (from 2).
4. To conceive of God as not existing is not to conceive of God (from 1 and 3).

5. It is inconceivable that God not exist (from 4).

6. God exists.

1. The Argument from Miracles

1. Miracles are events that violate the laws of nature.

2. Miracles can be explained only by a force that has the power of suspending the laws of nature for the purpose of making its presence known or changing the course of human history (from 1).

3. Only God has the power and the purpose to carry out miracles (from 2).

4. We have a multitude of written and oral reports of miracles. (Indeed, every major religion is founded on a list of miracles.)

5. Human testimony would be useless if it were not, in the majority of cases, veridical.

6. The best explanation for why there are so many reports testifying to the same thing is that the reports are true (from 5).

7. The best explanation for the multitudinous reports of miracles is that miracles have indeed occurred (from 6).

8. God exists (from 3 & 7).

6. The Argument from Moral Truth

1. There exist objective moral truths. (Slavery and torture and genocide are not just distasteful to us, but are actually wrong.)

2. These objective moral truths are not grounded in the way the world is but rather in the way that the world ought to be. (Consider: should white-supremacists succeed, taking over the world and eliminating all who don't meet their criteria for being existence-worthy, their ideology still would be morally wrong. It would be true, under this hideous counterfactual, that the world ought not to be the way they have made it.)

3. The world itself — the way that it is, the laws of science that explain why it is that way — cannot account for the way that the world ought to be.

4. The only way to account for morality is that God established morality (from 2 and 3).

5. God exists.

23. The Argument from Holy Books

1. There are holy books that reveal the word of God.

2. The word of God is necessarily true.

3. The word of God reveals the existence of God.

4. God exists.

34. The Argument from Sublimity

1. There are experiences that are windows into the wholeness of existence — its grandeur, beauty, symmetry, harmony, unity, even its goodness.
2. We glimpse a benign transcendence in these moments.
3. Only God could provide us with a glimpse of benign transcendence.
4. God exists.