

9. If you were trying to convince someone God exists, what would you say? How would you go about it?
10. What do you think are the most common objections people have to Christianity?
11. Are those objections different today than they were 50 years ago? 500 years ago? Why?



“Why Not God”

Sermon Notes and Takehome

May 1st, 2011

“If there were no God, it would have been necessary to invent him.”
—Voltaire

"[Arguments about God are] like pointing a flashlight toward the sky to see if the sun is shining." —N.T. Wright

“...what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” —Romans 1:19-20

“I would rather live my life as if there is a God and die to find out there isn't, than live my life as if there isn't and die to find out there is.” —Albert Camus

“God is dead.” —Nietzsche
“Nietzsche is dead.”—God

Sermon Notes:

The Bible never tries to _____ God.

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ –Psalm 14:1

For most people, the classic arguments for God’s existence are _____.

_____ % of Americans believe in a “higher power.”

Believing He exists is not God’s primary _____. (James 2:19)

- God wants to be where we _____ Life.

Reasons People Believe (or Don’t Believe)

1. _____.

- _____ do matter.

Questions people ask:

- “What about other religions?”
- “Isn’t it narrow-minded to believe you have the Truth?”
- “How can a loving God allow so much evil and suffering?”
- “How can a loving God send people to hell?”

2. _____.

- _____

- _____

3. _____.

- We tend to find plausible the beliefs of the _____ you want to be around.

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Have you ever doubted God’s existence? What were your reasons for doubt? Why did you come back to belief?
2. Why do many people never seem to doubt God at all?
3. Why do you think God often seems to be “hidden?” Why does God not give “indisputable evidence?” What would that evidence be?
4. Do you agree that God’s primary goal is not that we believe He exists? Why or why not? What *is* His goal?
5. In the message, Kory said, “No one believes (or disbelieves) for purely intellectual reasons.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. What were the three types of reasons for belief Kory mentioned? Give examples of each.
7. Which of the three is the *primary* reason for you?