

# Is it **REAL?** ... Key questions and answers

**NOTE: Check your posture (fighting, fear, uncaring, or open)!**

Answers	Questions
<b>Confidence in <u>Jesus</u> and his <u>Resurrection</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurate eyewitness accounts of Jesus in Gospels (e.g. manuscript evidence, external references - Pliny, honest tone) = truly see Jesus</li> <li>• Uniqueness of Jesus and his message (e.g. high standard but welcomed all, good but astounding claims, unique among religions – “do” vs “done”)</li> <li>• Evidence for Jesus’ death &amp; resurrection (e.g. “blood &amp; water”, many witnesses, predicted, transformed followers)</li> <li>• Impact on society (e.g. slavery) &amp; individual lives (e.g. you!)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you know about Jesus? Do you think Jesus and his message has any value? (Note exclusive claims in John 14:6 &gt; hence worth investigating ... CS Lewis - “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”)</li> <li>• Do you think Jesus’ resurrection is an important part of Christianity? ... 1 Cor 15:14 Have you ever wondered why so many people actually believe Jesus rose from the dead? Have you ever tried to disprove it?</li> </ul>
<b>Confidence that <u>Everything</u> in the <u>Bible</u> is God’s Word and is truth</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus said it is true (e.g. people, general authority, details – verb tense in Matt 22:29-32)</li> <li>• Claims to be God’s word &amp; supported by unified message</li> <li>• Archeology proves it’s accuracy &amp; precise transmission</li> <li>• Prophecy (e.g. Abraham, Israel as nation, details of Jesus)</li> <li>• Ability to explain our world (e.g. evil &amp; sense of justice)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you decide what is true and worth building your life on? Whose word do you trust?</li> </ul>
<b>Confidence that <u>All things</u> were <u>created</u> by God</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus affirmed the early creation accounts</li> <li>• Science agrees that the universe had a sudden beginning due to unknown forces</li> <li>• Complexity of life (e.g. immensity of galaxies, precise balance of earth, 6M species, intricacy of tiny cells/DNA, intelligent design evidence &amp; secular scientists who agree)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where did matter/energy come from? ... If “always existed” then we both have faith in a self-existent divinity on which everything else depends (levels “playing field”)</li> <li>• What do you know about evolution? What is your best evidence for evolution? ... Many accept evolution by faith without much evidence!</li> <li>• What is the best explanation for specific questions (e.g. genetic entropy, soft dinosaur tissue, development of new functionality from mutations)?</li> <li>• How do you think we ought to treat one another? Why do you live morally and why do you expect others to treat you fairly? How does that belief in morals align with the principles of evolution (e.g. random chance, determinism)?</li> </ul>
<b>Confidence in <u>Life after death</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus taught that there was conscious existence after death (heaven &amp; hell) &gt; extension of life choices</li> <li>• Anthropology - different cultures all speak of afterlife</li> <li>• Near death experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What difference does the inevitability of death make to you?</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> You, however, must continue in the things you have learned and are confident (convinced) about. You know who taught you. (2 Tim 3:14)

- **Be Convinced** – are you confident in what is REAL?
- **In Community** – whose life is a testimony to you of what is REAL?
- **Continue** to live it out – does your life reflect what is REAL?