

# The Questions:

## Hard Questions of Faith

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WEEK 3 | 7 Hard Questions

### PRAYER

*“Father, we come to You today, acknowledging that life brings many challenging questions. We thank You that You are with us in these moments, guiding us to the truth and giving us the wisdom we need. Help us to stand firm in Your Word and respond to others with humility and love. Give us the discernment to understand the times we are living in and the courage to defend our faith with grace. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”*

### OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

“If you could ask one RANDOM question and get a guaranteed truthful answer, what would you ask? (Bonus points if it’s something ridiculous, like, ‘Why do socks disappear in the laundry?’)”



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## WORD

*“For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”*

### [Colossians 2:1-10 \(ESV\)](#)

In our current cultural climate, we often face hard questions about Christianity that challenge our faith. Whether it’s about suffering, the exclusivity of Christ, or science versus religion, these questions are real and deserve thoughtful, compassionate responses. In **Colossians 2:1-10**, Paul encourages the believers in Colossae to stay rooted in Christ as they face “plausible arguments” that could lead them astray. The treasure of wisdom and knowledge is found in Christ, and it is from this foundation that we can answer the difficult questions the world poses.

Paul reminds us to be **rooted and built up in Christ** (v.7) and warns against being taken captive by “philosophy and empty deceit” (v.8). Many questions that come our way are framed in a way that can undermine faith, but when we stand firm in the truth of the Gospel, we are able to provide a defense for the hope we have. The key is to respond with humility, recognizing that we don’t have all the answers, but we know the One who does—Jesus Christ.

In Tim Keller’s **“Reason for God,”** he addresses seven key objections that skeptics often raise about Christianity. These questions provide a good starting point for us to prepare for the kinds of challenges we might face:

#### **1. There can’t be just one true religion.**

Keller responds by explaining that all religions have some degree of exclusivity, but Christianity’s claim is based on Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, not just a set of rules or teachings. Most religions will teach truth, whereas Jesus LIVED and DIED as the truth.

#### **2. How could a good God allow suffering?**

While this is a difficult question, Keller points out that Christianity uniquely offers hope because Jesus Himself suffered and defeated evil through the cross. He also promises us His presence, grace and His Spirit as we walk through suffering.

#### **3. Christianity is a straitjacket.**

Keller argues that true freedom isn’t the absence of restrictions but finding the right restrictions—those that align with God’s design for human flourishing. He is a loving Father not a slave driving megalomaniac.

#### **4. The church is responsible for so much injustice.**

While it’s true that the church has been involved in wrongdoing, Keller emphasizes that it’s also been a powerful force for good. He reminds us that Christianity is about Christ, not the imperfect people who follow Him.

#### **5. How can a loving God send people to hell?**

Keller suggests that hell is a result of human choice, and God respects human freedom. He invites us into a relationship with Him, but we are free to reject Him.

#### **6. Science has disproved Christianity.**

Keller notes that science and faith are not at odds. Many great scientists have been people of faith, and the Bible addresses questions of meaning, purpose, and morality—areas science does not.

#### **7. You can’t take the Bible literally.**

Keller argues that the Bible, while containing different genres, is a trustworthy historical document that has been faithfully preserved and accurately reflects God’s revelation.

These questions often cut deep, challenging our core beliefs, but by being rooted in Christ and holding firm to our faith, we can answer these questions with confidence, grace, and humility.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

((NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE))

1. What are some of the hard questions you’ve encountered when discussing your faith? How did you feel when they were asked, and how did you respond?
2. How does Colossians 2:1-10 encourage us to stand firm in our faith when we face challenges or difficult questions?
3. Of the seven questions outlined in Tim Keller’s “Reason for God,” which one resonates most with you? Why do you think this question is so challenging for people to grapple with? What are you willing to do find Godly answers to this question?
4. What steps can we take to better prepare ourselves to answer the hard questions we face in today’s world, particularly as it relates to our identity in Christ?

**“Lord Jesus, we thank You for being our wisdom and our guide. You are the source of all knowledge and truth, and we trust You when hard questions arise. Help us to remain rooted in You and to respond to the challenges we face with humility, grace, and love. Give us the courage to defend our faith, not out of pride, but out of a desire to lead others to You. For those who are seeking answers, we pray they would find their rest and hope in You, the Creator and Lord of all. We offer our lives to You, Jesus, as we seek to live for You and make Your love known to others. Amen.”**