

101 Biblical Premises (short form)

GOD	CREATION	HUMANITY	MORAL ORDER	PURPOSE
<i>Has to do with the nature, character and role of God.</i>	<i>Has to do with what is made and sustained by God.</i>	<i>Has to do with who and what humans are.</i>	<i>Has to do with moral behavior and responsibility.</i>	<i>Has to do with the intention or meaning of all that exists.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God is eternal, with no beginning or end. ● God is a divine Person, with mind, emotion, and free will. ● God is a compound unity having three simultaneous manifestations: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. ● God is entirely good and holy, having no evil elements whatsoever. ● God is omniscient (all-knowing). ● God is omnipresent (everywhere-present). ● God is omnipotent (all-powerful). ● God is perfect in every respect. ● God never changes. ● God created all things. ● God continuously sustains all things throughout the present. ● God transcends His creation, and is distinct from it. ● God is sovereign over all things, including all nations, and all of creation. ● God loves all people of every nation. ● God desires a relationship with every human being. ● God is active in the affairs of all humanity, and is the ultimate authority. ● God sees all human acts, and discerns all human thoughts and motives. ● God empathizes with those who suffer, and all who are tempted. ● God is aware and interested in every aspect of each person's life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The entire universe was spoken into existence by the Designer's willing choice. ● All things are continually sustained by God. The created realm includes both physical and spiritual realities. ● The created realm includes both physical and spiritual realities. ● The created realm includes both temporal and eternal realities. ● All creation speaks of God's existence. ● The creation speaks of God's character. ● All truth existing in creation is God's truth. ● The earth has been plagued by corruption and decay since mankind's first sin at the Fall. ● The world (including the physical realm of creation) has not been forsaken by God, in spite of the Fall. ● Pain and suffering are realities of a Fallen, broken world. ● The earth and everything in it remains God's own possession, and therefore, it has great significance for God and for humans. ● The earth and all it contains is a realm that God intends for humans to properly steward and govern. ● Spiritual forces exist that have rebelled against God, and who oppose Him and His work in the created realm. ● Angels and demons are real. ● Hell is real. ● Heaven is real. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Humans were created by God's choice and design. ● Man and woman were specially created in the likeness and image of God so that they could fulfill God's First Commission to rule (govern) over all the earth. ● Humans are different from animals, having intrinsic value and inherent worth because they are made in the likeness and image of God. ● Humans are able to communicate with God—and God with humans. ● Humans are spiritual as well as physical beings, needing both physical and spiritual nurturing. ● Humans have been given the ability to make moral choices. ● People are alienated from God through transgressions (sins). ● All humans sin, and fall short of the glory of God. ● Since the Fall (when Adam, the first man, sinned through disobedience to God), all humans have been born with a basic internal nature that seeks to go its own way and ignore God's will, especially when it contradicts their own desires. ● Human pain, suffering and sorrow are the result of the Fall and the consequences of that historic event. ● All humans experience physical death, followed by eternal fellowship with God or eternal separation from Him. ● Humans can be restored to a right relationship with God through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moral order is determined by God, not invented by humans. ● God's moral order is designed for the good of humans and all of society. ● Moral order is clarified through biblical examples of good and evil. ● Moral order is upheld through God's ordained institutions of family, church and state. ● The moral order of God is non-optional and non-negotiable. ● Although humans have the God-given <i>ability</i> to break God's moral laws, they do not have the <i>right</i> to break them. ● Humans are responsible and accountable for their actions. ● Violation of God's moral order results in pain—for the violator and often for others, too. ● Sin is disobedience of God's moral order. ● Since the Fall, human beings have experienced an internal problem with sin – a natural “bent” to go our own way rather than God's way, and to be a law unto ourselves. ● God's moral standards apply to all people of all cultures in equal measure. ● Character development is the moral responsibility of all people. ● It is the responsibility of parents to bring up their children in accordance with the ways of the Lord. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The First Commission God gave to human beings was to rule over all the earth. ● The will of God is to be done on earth as it is in heaven. ● The function of believers of Christ is to be a blessing to the nations as the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” ● The purpose of all things, including things in earth, centers in Christ's purpose for all things. ● The Great Commission is to make disciples of all nations. ● The Word of God reveals God's plan and purpose for humanity. ● The purpose for marriage and the family has been established by God. ● The purpose of the Church has been established by God. ● The role of civil government has been established by God. ● There is a purpose for each person. ● Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers have particular roles to fill. ● God seeks to do His will on earth as it is in heaven, and by His grace, He will work through redeemed people to bring His light to every sphere of life.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God communicates with people. ● God reveals Himself to humans through His written Word, the Bible. ● God reveals Himself to humans through His creation. ● God revealed Himself through the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ. ● Jesus Christ is the only incarnation of God, born of a virgin, being truly human and truly divine. ● Christ was buried, bodily resurrected, and ascended to the right hand of God the Father. ● At the cross, Christ, the sinless Son of God, took upon Himself the sins of the human race, in order to bridge the relational gap between humans and God, and to provide a way of redemption through personal faith in His finished work. ● God desires that all men should come to repentance. ● God forgives sin. ● God is merciful and just. ● God is faultless in judgment. ● God is truth personified. ● God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. ● God answers prayer. ● God works through people to accomplish His will on earth. ● God is fully worthy of unreserved worship, confidence and obedience. ● Christ will literally, visibly and personally come again. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The earth and the universe will someday be fully restored by God to their perfect condition, and His redeemed people will dwell in an earthly holy city called the “New Jerusalem.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All people who turn from sin, and place their trust in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross to redeem them, will experience salvation, a gift of God’s grace apart from human effort. ● All believers in Christ are an integral part of the Body of Christ—His church, the family of God. ● People have been given gifts by God for the purpose of building the body of Christ, and blessing all humanity. ● All believers in Christ have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, who empowers them to live a godly life. ● Some knowledge can only come to humans through divine revelation of the Holy Spirit. ● All believers in Christ are called to participate in fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28. ● All humans will appear before the final judgment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The two foremost responsibilities that humans have are to love the Lord with all their heart, mind and strength, and to love their neighbors as ourselves. ● Genuine human freedom is the internal self-control that comes from moral self-government under God – through the enablement of the Holy Spirit – regardless of the circumstances. ● The only divinely inspired, authoritative rule of faith and conduct is the Bible. ● All moral and ethical truth is God’s truth. 	

101 Biblical Premises

In connection with the nature, character and role of GOD

- 1. God is eternal, with no beginning or end.** [*Rom. 1:20 ...His invisible attributes are clearly seen...even His eternal power and Godhead; I Tim. 1:17 Now to the King eternal.; Deut. 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge.*]
- 2. God is a divine Person, with mind, emotion, and free will.** [*Isa. 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord...;Isa. 65:19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people...;Ps. 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.*]
- 3. God is a compound unity having three simultaneous manifestations: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit.** [*Matt. 3:16-17 ...Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."; John 14:9 He who has seen Me has seen the Father; Matt. 12:18 Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.*]
- 4. God is entirely good and holy, having no evil elements whatsoever.** [*Matt. 19:7 No one is good but One, that is, God.; I Jn. 1:5 God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*]
- 5. God is omniscient (all-knowing).** [*Luke 8:17 For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.*]
- 6. God is omnipresent (everywhere-present).** [*Ps. 139:8 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*]
- 7. God is omnipotent (all-powerful).** [*Ps. 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.*]
- 8. God is perfect in every respect.** [*Deut 32:3-5 For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.*]
- 9. God never changes.** [*James 1:17 ...the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning; Mal. 3:6 For I am the Lord, I change not...*]

- 10. God created all things.** [*John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*]
- 11. God continuously sustains all things throughout the present.** [*Col. 1:16-17 All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist (hold together); Heb. 1:2-3 ...through whom also He made the worlds...and upholding all things by the word of His power...*]
- 12. God transcends His creation, and is distinct from it.** [*Gen. 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...God said, "Let there be..."and there was...*]
- 13. God is sovereign over all things, including all nations, and all of creation.** [*Acts 10:36 ...He is Lord of all; Ps. 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Job 12:23 He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them.*]
- 14. God loves all people of every nation.** [*Jn. 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...; II Pet. 3:9 The Lord is...not willing that any should perish...*]
- 15. God desires a relationship with every human being.** [*II Pet. 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; I Tim. 2:4 [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*]
- 16. God is active in the affairs of all humanity, and is the ultimate authority.** [*Proverbs 8:15-16 By Me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By Me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth; Romans 13:1 For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*]
- 17. God sees all human acts, and discerns all human thoughts and motives.** [*Luke 8:17 For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light; Deut. 8:2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to... test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not; Ps. 7:9 For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.*]
- 18. God empathizes with those who suffer, and all who are tempted.** [*Heb. 2:17-18 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*]
- 19. God is aware and interested in every aspect of each person's life.** [*Matt. 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*]

- 20. God communicates with people.** [*Gen. 1:9-10 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."*]
- 21. God reveals Himself to humans through His written Word, the Bible.** [*II Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...*]
- 22. God reveals Himself to humans through His creation.** [*Rom. 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 what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 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...*]
- 23. God revealed Himself through the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ.** [*Jn. 15:15 ...but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*]
- 24. Jesus Christ is the only incarnation of God, born of a virgin, being truly human and truly divine.** [*John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth; Matt. 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."*]
- 25. Christ was buried, bodily resurrected, and ascended to the right hand of God the Father.** [*I Cor. 15:3-4 ...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; John 3:13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven; Mark 16:19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.*]
- 26. At the cross, Christ, the sinless Son of God, took upon Himself the sins of the human race, in order to bridge the relational gap between humans and God, and to provide a way of redemption through personal faith in His finished work.** [*John 11:50 ...it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish; John 3: 14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*]
- 27. God desires that all men should come to repentance.** [*II Pet. 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.*]
- 28. God forgives sin.** [*I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*]

- 29. God is merciful and just.** [*Ps. 25:6 Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old; Ps. 33:5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.*]
- 30. God is faultless in judgment.** [*Ps. 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face; Rev. 15:3 Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!*]
- 31. God is truth personified.** [*John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life...."*]
- 32. God is the giver of every good and perfect gift.** [*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...*]
- 33. God answers prayer.** [*Luke 11:9-11 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone?]*
- 34. God works through people to accomplish His will on earth.** [*Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them; Matt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. John 15:16 I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...*]
- 35. God is fully worthy of unreserved worship, confidence and obedience.** [*Rev. 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created. II Sam. 22:31 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*]
- 36. Christ will literally, visibly and personally come again.** [*Luke 1:10-11 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*]

***In connection with all that is made and sustained by God through
CREATION***

- 37. The entire universe was spoken into existence by the Designer's willing choice.** [*Gen. 1 And God said, "Let there be...and there was..."; Jn. 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*]

- 38. All things are continually sustained by God.** [*Col. 1:16-17 All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist (hold together); Heb. 1:2-3 ...through whom also He made the worlds...and upholding all things by the word of His power...*]
- 39. The created realm includes both physical and spiritual realities.** [*Col. 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.*]
- 40. The created realm includes both temporal and eternal realities.** [*II Cor. 4:18 For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*]
- 41. All creation speaks of God's existence.** [*Rom 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 what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 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...*]
- 42. The creation speaks of God's character.** [*Rom. 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...*]
- 43. All truth existing in creation is God's truth.** [*Ps. 33:4 And all His work is done in truth.*]
- 44. The earth has been plagued by corruption and decay since mankind's first sin at the Fall.** [*Gen. 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': cursed is the ground for your sake..."; 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.*]
- 45. The world (including the physical realm of creation) has not been forsaken by God, in spite of the Fall.** [*Gen. 3:21 (after the Fall) ...for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them; John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Rom. 8:19-21 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*]
- 46. Pain and suffering are realities of a Fallen, broken world.** [*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.*]

- 47. The earth and everything in it remains God's own possession, and therefore, it has great significance for God and for humans.** [Ps. 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's and all it contains; Ps. 103:19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all; Acts 17:24-28 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things... for in Him we live and move and have our being...*]
- 48. The earth and all it contains is a realm that God intends for humans to properly steward and govern.** [Gen 1:26-28 *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." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Ps. 8:4-8 What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen – even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.*]
- 49. Spiritual forces exist that have rebelled against God, and who oppose Him and His work in the created realm.** [Eph. 6:11-12 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*]
- 50. Angels and demons are real.** [Matt. 13:38-39 *The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.*]
- 51. Hell is real.** [Matt. 25:41 *Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...'*]
- 52. Heaven is real.** [Matt. 6:10 *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*]
- 53. The earth and the universe will someday be fully restored by God to their perfect condition, and His redeemed people will dwell in an earthly holy city called the "New Jerusalem."** [Rom. 8:19-21 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Rev. 21:1-2; 23-24 And I [John] saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem,*

coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...And the city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.]

In connection with the biblical view of **HUMANITY**

- 54. Humans were created by God's choice and design.** [Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."]
- 55. Man and woman were specially created in the likeness and image of God so that they could fulfill God's First Commission to rule (govern) over all the earth.** [Gen. 1:26-28 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." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."]
- 56. Humans are different from animals, having intrinsic value and inherent worth because they are made in the likeness and image of God.** [Gen. 9:3-6 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 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. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.]
- 57. Humans are able to communicate with God – and God with humans.** [Gen. 1:9-10 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden..." Phil. 4:6 ..in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.]
- 58. Humans are spiritual as well as physical beings, needing both physical and spiritual nurturing.** [Gen. 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. Matt. 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Rom. 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. Rom. 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.]

- 59. Humans have been given the ability to make moral choices.** [*Gen. 2:15-17 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*]
- 60. People are alienated from God through transgressions (sins).** [*Gen. 3:22-24 Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever' – therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man... Isa. 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*]
- 61. All humans sin, and fall short of the glory of God.** [*Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*]
- 62. Since the Fall (when Adam, the first man, sinned through disobedience to God), all humans have been born with a basic internal nature that seeks to go its own way and ignore God's will, especially when it contradicts their own desires.** [*Isa. 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way...; Rom. 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression...; Rom. 7:18-19 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.*]
- 63. Human pain, suffering and sorrow are the result of the Fall and the consequences of that historic event.** [*I Cor. 15:21-22 by man came death...For as in Adam all die...; Gen. 3:16-19 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children... Then to Adam He said..." Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground...; Rom. 5:12 ...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men...]*
- 64. All humans experience physical death, followed by eternal fellowship with God or eternal separation from Him.** [*Matt. 25:32-34; 41 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...]*
- 65. Humans can be restored to a right relationship with God through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.** [*John 3:14-15 ...as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Rom. 5:1,2,19 ... having been justified by faith, we have peace with*

God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand...For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.]

- 66. All people who turn from sin, and place their trust in Christ's sacrifice on the cross to redeem them, will experience salvation, a gift of God's grace apart from human effort.** [*Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...; Jn. 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name...]*
- 67. All believers in Christ are an integral part of the Body of Christ – His church, the family of God.** [*I Cor. 12:12-13 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 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.]*
- 68. People have been given gifts by God for the purpose of building the body of Christ, and blessing all humanity.** [*I Cor. 12:4-7 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...]*
- 69. All believers in Christ have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, who empowers them to live a godly life.** [*I Cor. 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. I Jn. 4:4 ...He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. Acts 1: 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”]*
- 70. Some knowledge can only come to humans through divine revelation of the Holy Spirit.** [*Jn. 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.; Jn. 16:13 ...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...]*
- 71. All believers in Christ are called to participate in fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28.** [*Matt. 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.]*
- 72. All humans will appear before the final judgment.** [*Heb. 9:27 ...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...]*

***In connection with behavior, responsibility and
MORAL ORDER***

- 73. Moral order is determined by God, not invented by humans.** [Ex. 20:1-3 *And God spoke all these words, saying: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.; Isa. 55:8 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. Deut. 10:12 ...what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways.]*
- 74. God's moral order is designed for the good of humans and all of society.** [Matt. 19:17 [Jesus said] '*...if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.*' Rom. 7:12 *Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Rom. 13:3 Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. Titus 3:8 ...those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.]*
- 75. Moral order is clarified through biblical examples of good and evil.** [I Cor. 10:1-6 *...I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea...But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.; II Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...]*
- 76. Moral order is upheld through God's ordained institutions of family, church and state.** [Matt. 19:4-6 *...He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, 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'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. Matt. 16:18 ...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Rom. 13:1-4 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister...]*
- 77. The moral order of God is non-optional and non-negotiable.** [Ex. 20:1-3 *And God spoke all these words, saying: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me...Deut. 10:12 ...what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Ps. 119:151-152 You are near, O Lord, and all Your commandments are truth. Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.]*

- 78. Although humans have the God-given ability to break God’s moral laws, they do not have the right to break them.** [*Matt. 4:10 You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve. Gen. 2:16-17 ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’*]
- 79. Humans are responsible and accountable for their actions.** [*Heb. 9:27 ...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...*]
- 80. Violation of God’s moral order results in pain – for the violator and often for others, too.** [*I Cor. 15:21-22 by man came death... For as in Adam all die...; Gen. 3:16-19 To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children... Then to Adam He said...’ Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground...; Rom. 5:12 ...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men...*]
- 81. Sin is disobedience of God’s moral order.** [*Ex. 20:20 And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.’ Lev. 4:1-3 Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, saying: “If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which ought not to be done, and does any of them, if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the Lord for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering.”’*]
- 82. Since the Fall, human beings have experienced an internal problem with sin – a natural “bent” to go our own way rather than God’s way, and to be a law unto ourselves.** [*Rom. 7:18-19 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Isa. 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.]*
- 83. God’s moral standards apply to all people of all cultures in equal measure.** [*Rom. 1:18-20; 28-32 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 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... And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.]*

- 84. Character development is the moral responsibility of all people.** [II Tim. 2:1-3; 23-26
...my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ... But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. Matt. 28:19-20 ...make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...]
- 85. It is the responsibility of parents to bring up their children in accordance with the ways of the Lord.** [Eph.6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*]
- 86. The two foremost responsibilities that humans have are to love the Lord with all their heart, mind and strength, and to love their neighbors as ourselves.** [Matt. 22:36-40
'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?' Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.']
- 87. Genuine human freedom is the internal self-control that comes from moral self-government under God – through the enablement of the Holy Spirit – regardless of the circumstances.** [Gal. 5:1, 4, 13, 16, 22, 23 *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage... You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace... For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another... I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...]*
- 88. The only divinely inspired, authoritative rule of faith and conduct is the Bible.** [II Tim. 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*]
- 89. All moral and ethical truth is God's truth.** [Col. 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth...Ps. 33:4 For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth. Ps. 119:142 ...Your law is truth. Jn. 14:6 Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life...']*

In connection with intention, meaning and
PURPOSE

- 90. The First Commission God gave to human beings was to rule over all the earth.** [*Gen. 1:26-28 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.'* So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'
- 91. The will of God is to be done on earth as it is in heaven.** [*Luke 11:2 So Jesus said to them, 'When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven... Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...' Matt. 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...]*
- 92. The function of believers of Christ is to be a blessing to the nations as the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.”** [*Matt. 5:13-16 You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*
You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.]
- 93. The purpose of all things, including things in earth, centers in Christ's purpose for all things.** [*Col. 1:16-18 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. Rev. 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.]*
- 94. The Great Commission is to make disciples of all nations.** [*Matt. 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'* Amen.]
- 95. The Word of God reveals God's plan and purpose for humanity.** [*II Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,*

for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.]

96. The purpose for marriage and the family has been established by God. [Matt. 19:4-6 ...He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, 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'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.]

97. The purpose of the Church has been established by God. [Matt. 16:18 ...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Eph. 4:11-13 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...]

98. The role of civil government has been established by God. [Rom. 13:1-4 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister...]

99. There is a purpose for each person. [Ecc. 3:1-2 To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die...II Pet. 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.]

100. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers have particular roles to fill. [I Cor. 12:18, 28 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased...And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...Eph. 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...]

101. God seeks to do His will on earth as it is in heaven, and by His grace, He will work through redeemed people to bring His light to every sphere of life. [Luke 11:2 So Jesus said to them, 'When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven... Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...' Matt. 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you... Matt. 5:13-16 You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.]

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QUESTIONS FOR “CONTEXTUALIZING” SUBJECT MATTER

Perhaps the best way to “contextualize” subject matter within the “larger frame of reference” provided by a Biblical Worldview, is to pose **open-ended questions that prompt reflection on how that subject matter relates to the biblical view of God, Creation, Humanity, Moral Order and Purpose**. As we think deeply about answers, as guided by God’s Word, we can personalize our understanding of things. And with this personalization may come a higher sense of meaning and purpose.

Below are examples of open-ended questions that prompt “contextualization” with the largest frame of reference possible. Wording of some questions may need to be adjusted for the very young.

“GOD” QUESTIONS:

How do you think God looks at _____?

How do you think God *feels* about _____?

Why do you think _____ is really important to God?

With respect to _____, what difference does a Christian view of God make in contrast to a Hindu, Humanist, etc.¹ view?

If you were God, what would you *do* about _____?

What has God said in His Word that relates directly or indirectly to _____?

Why do you think God is silent in His Word about _____?

How does God’s view of _____ differ from man’s view? (...from the view of a Humanist? ...the view of an Animist, etc.?)

How does _____ reveal God’s hand at work in the world? (How does God *participate* in _____?)

What *assumptions* about God lie behind _____?

What about _____ is in *harmony* with a biblical view of God? ...in *opposition* to a biblical view of God?

How does _____ help us to know God better?

¹ Various worldviews contrasting to Christianity may include materialism (naturalism), animism, humanism, relativism, hedonism, deism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Marxism, etc.

“CREATION” QUESTIONS:

Is there more to _____ than meets the eye?

How does the design of _____ reveal the Designer? What does it tell us *about Him*? What is He saying *to us* through it?

When it comes to its effects on the material world, what difference does a Christian view of _____ make? [...a Muslim view, ...a Humanist view, ...an Animist view, etc.]

What effects might unseen realities [angels/demons, etc.] have on _____?

Do you see any evidence of unseen spiritual forces on _____?

What is truly “real” about _____?

What *isn't* real about _____?

What about _____ is in *harmony* with a biblical view of creation? ...in *opposition* to a biblical view of creation?

What is _____ good for? Why do you think _____ is a part of creation?

What does _____ have to do with the First Commission [“Cultural Mandate”] of Genesis 1:26-28?

How does the Bible help us make sense of _____?

How does _____ relate to all other aspects of creation? (How does a Christian view of _____ tie together with the rest of what God has made?)

How has sin distorted _____?

What biblical realizations/clarifications/truths must be brought into the picture in order to make our understanding of _____ truly complete, or “whole?”

After God created the world, He said it was “good.” What is still “good” about _____ in a fallen world?

How does the biblical narrative of “Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration” relate to _____?

“HUMANITY” QUESTIONS:

When it comes to a Christian view of _____, what are the ramifications for human beings?

How has a Christian view of _____ affected human history? ...affected culture? ...affected the economy? ...affected the arts? ...affected business? ...affected the family? ...affected the workplace? *etc.*

What positive character qualities can _____ develop or strengthen? (How does _____ relate to a person's spiritual growth or spiritual decline?)

How does the view of a Christian affect one's interaction with _____? ...one's interpretation of _____? ...one's response to _____?

How does Christian *faith* relate to _____? How does _____ *affect* Christian faith?

What does _____ have to do with the work of a Christian car mechanic [...hair stylist, lawyer, teacher, artist, etc.]?

What does basic human nature relate to _____?

How does _____ *unite* people? ...*divide* people? ...*fulfill* people? ...*ruin* people? etc.

What assumptions about humanity lie behind _____?

When it comes to _____, what aspects of the human *mind* need to be transformed?

What worldviews would be *opposed* to _____, and why? ...in *favor* of, and why?

What is truly human about _____?

What about _____ is in *harmony* with a biblical view of humanity? ...in *opposition* to...?

How might _____ affect a Christian's view of the *future*?

What does _____ have to do with Christ's call to disciple the nations, and to teach people to observe all that He commanded (Matthew 28:18-20)?

When it comes to non-Christian views regarding _____, what is *missing*?

Is there anything in _____ that Christians need to re-learn? ...re-apply?

How can the study of _____ benefit humanity? How does _____ relate to building a healthy family? ...a healthy city? ...a healthy workplace? ...a healthy church?

How can we find joy in _____?

"MORAL ORDER" QUESTIONS:

What moral aspects are a part of _____?

How is _____ being misused or abused?

What value does a Christian see in _____?

What value does Christ see in _____?

From a Christian [Animist, Humanist, etc.] perspective, what determines whether _____ is right or wrong, good or bad?

Is there an absolute standard of right or wrong with respect to _____?

From a Christian perspective, what controversies surround _____?

With respect to _____, what has *not* been said that *should* be said?

How could _____ be approached in a truly God-honoring way?

How does biblical teaching about poverty/wealth relate to _____?

What basis for morality is there behind _____?

What special challenges are there for Christians with respect to _____? How can these challenges be addressed?

What is *best* about _____?

What responsibilities are part of _____? For whom?

What responsibility to God does _____ involve?

What about _____ is in harmony with a biblical view of morality? ...in opposition to a biblical view of morality?

What biblical reason [or, justification] is there for _____? ...biblical prohibition for _____?

What *rights* do people have with respect to _____? ...*responsibilities* do people have...?

How does _____ relate to the biblical idea of freedom? What *is* the biblical idea of freedom?

Why is there no neutral position with respect to _____?

What should Christians do [or, think] in response to _____?

What elements of truth in _____ do Christians share with Humanists [Islamists, Atheists, etc.]? Is there any common ground here?

How does sin relate to _____?

What might happen if _____ is carried to its logical conclusion? What *did* happen when it *was* carried to its logical conclusion?

“PURPOSE” QUESTIONS:

What purpose should a Christian see in _____?

What purpose does Christ see in _____?

Why does _____ really matter?

How does a Christian view of _____ make a difference in the way we understand its purpose?

What difference would the view of a Hindu, Humanist, or Animist, etc., make in how _____ is used?

What are biblically acceptable goals or objectives for _____?

How can _____ be aligned with Christ's purpose for it?

What assumptions about meaning or purpose are behind _____?

What effect does the "sacred-secular divide" have on _____?

How is _____ in *harmony* with a biblical view of purpose? ...in *opposition* to a biblical view of purpose?

What biblical reason [or, justification] is there for _____?

How does _____ relate to the First Commission of Genesis 1:26-28? ...to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20? ...to the Great Commandment of Mark 12:30-31?

How does the purpose of _____ relate to the future?

What gives _____ meaning for a Christian? ...for a Humanist? ...for an Animist?

What should Christians *do* in response to _____?

How does the Bible help us make sense of _____?

How does the Bible affect the application/implementation of _____?

How does _____ contribute to a Christian view of "wholeness?"

How should _____ affect the way Christians live? ...vote? ...work? ...play?

How can Christianity turn _____ around? ...restore it? ...redeem it?

What does _____ have to do with "world-changing," or "culture-making?"

These questions were designed for use with a tool called, "The Integration Conversation Starter." For a copy of this tool, and related resources, visit Worldview Matters® at www.worldviewmatters.com. This document ©2012 Christian Overman. Permission is granted to make copies for personal use, but not for resale.



GOD: Nature? Character? Role? Relationship?
Assessment or View? Presence? Authority? Etc.

Q: How do plants reveal God's hand at work in the world?

[They are God's way of providing oxygen to keep humans and animals alive...They were designed by God to give pleasure to the human eye (Gen. 2:9) ...They provide nutrition...They provide raw materials for shelter, furniture, dyes, etc...They provide a basis for economic development...]

CREATION: Origin? Makeup or Constitution? Relationship to God or Humanity? Etc.

Q: How do the designs of plants reveal the Designer? What do the designs of plants tell us about Him?

[They tell us we are cared for moment-by-moment by a loving Creator...They demonstrate examples of beauty, and thus give us ideas for re-creating beauty through the design of clothing and artwork, thus revealing the Creator-Designer as a Master Teacher...]

HUMANITY: Nature?
Character? Role? Value?
Relationship? Etc.

Q: What do plants have to do with Christ's call to disciple the nations?

[Through the wise and resourceful use of plants, people can honor Christ by fulfilling His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves...By making conscious connections between plants and our role as "earth-rulers," we can teach human responsibility, and the joys of co-working with God...]

SUBJECT or THEME:

PLANTS

Q: How do plants relate to the First Commission of Gen. 1:26-28?

[The cultivation of plants is a big part of our earth-ruling role and function...Through the proper governance and stewardship of plants we can put our image-bearing qualities to good use...]

Q: What responsibilities are part of our relationship with plants?

[Waste and abuse do not fulfill the Lord's intention for plants, human beings, or animals...]

PURPOSE: Reason? Significance?
Weight? Destiny? Direction? Design?
Outcome? Etc.

MORAL ORDER: Basis? Origin? Sphere? Accountability? Justness? Soundness? Etc.

How this activity/project relates to GOD

Q: How do you think God feels about oil painting?

[When we oil paint, we exercise our image-bearing quality as human beings made in His likeness and image, which must give Him some sense of pleasure...When we oil paint, we can bring joy and blessing to other people, and this must please God...When we oil paint well, we imitate God and glorify Him, which must be a source of joy to Him...]

How this activity/project relates to CREATION

Q: What effects might various unseen spiritual forces have on oil painting?

[The Holy Spirit can provide inspiration for our painting, but demons may also influence our painting, which should cause us to take care where we get our ideas for what to put on canvas....]

How this activity/project relates to HUMANITY

Q: How has a Christian view of oil painting affected culture?

[Oil painting that truly imitates God and brings glory to Him has been a blessing to many nations through history...Oil painting that glorifies God can inspire and educate nations...]

SPECIFIC ACTIVITY/PROJECT

OIL PAINTING

Q: What does oil painting have to do with world changing?

[Oil painting can remind people of what is important in life...Oil painting can teach people important things...Oil painting can remind people of their history worth remembering...Oil painting can provide people with positive thoughts and aspirations...]

How this activity/project relates to PURPOSE

Q: What determines whether an oil painting is morally good or bad?

[Does it reflect well on the nature and character of God? Does it serve to bless or inspire people? Does it strengthen people's better judgment? Does it communicate a worthy message? Does it bring legitimate pleasure to people?]

How this activity/project relates to MORAL ORDER