

A SMALL Part Of The Spiritual BATTLE ...

Illustration:

We have *Christian-by-name* college students who are a part of the community of believers at school but who eventually go on to choose to walk away from that community. Even when we hear they are struggling over some matters, we tell the group (in a teaching setting) that the evidences for the Christian faith are abundant. Yet, some, for various reasons, choose **not** to ask for resolutions to their particular doubt-based questions but instead choose to leave – to reject the things of God. Even though we tell them there are answers to their questions, they decide to take another path which rejects the eternal Truths of God. They've heard (from us) that failing to ask may contribute to the shaping of their eternal-state existence (especially if they go on to reject the things of God) BUT some choose to follow the darkness anyway. **HOW CAN THIS BE ?** Yet, it happens more often than we'd care to even confess.

In a similar way, we have folks who are a part of the community of believers in church who choose to reject – to *walk away from*, if you would – the Bible's picture of **end times** and instead embrace something contrary. Even when we tell them there are resolutions to their fair questions, some choose to reject our offer – they either choose not to ask simple questions which would allow for resolution as their doubts are addressed through the answering of their questions or they ask but choose to outright reject the answer(s) provided without sufficient warrant – dogmatism without proper grounds.

WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD FOLKS DO SUCH A THNG ?

IF [truth matters](#), which it does, WHY would they choose to take a destructive path by simply failing to ASK or by rejecting viable answers which resolve their concerns? I don't get it. Is it perhaps they really don't want Bible answers and/or resolutions but actually prefer to walk another path – one contrary to the narrow way of Truth as Truth is, by its very nature, narrow? (And this scenario does not take into account the many who are *wolves in sheep's clothing* – ones who are only out to undermine the faith of folks seeking God and who, as opposing skeptics seeking to foster *shipwreck of faith*, don't really care about the topic being discussed.)



Will we discern the epistemic limitations of humanity and be wise to the extent we are open to,

1. GOD's ways, ways that are higher than our ways, and,
2. GOD's thoughts, thoughts that are as high as the heavens are above the earth? (see Isaiah 55!)

Allow me use the topic of *beginnings* to illustrate another related point tied to this matter of addressing questions, ones which potentially allow for and/or foster, **doubt**. I will do so through the asking of two related questions:

Does the Bible offer a **Creation doctrine**? Does the Word of God address the topic of origins?

Indeed it does. Yet, we have folks who eventually respond with *has God said* questions, ones which clearly (or not so clearly at times – with duplicity) raise doubt as to the Truth-points tied to the holistic doctrine. Here is one pertinent example:

[Recall the *Mike* story ... A *Christian* missionary once asked me, “Which creation view do you espouse?” My answer: “The biblical one.” To which he laughed. But I ask: Is there NOT an actual creation doctrine defined in Scripture? Indeed there is. What do we do with that revelation? Do we accept it OR do we debate it using skeptical “really?” appeals? See [Truth Matters! article #4](#) on our www.endmin.org site.]

Here’s additional “Helpful Insight” to churches ... So consider some of the **obstacles**, ones occasionally present when seeking to answer those who struggle with legitimate doubts:

1. We have sincere questions. (These questions aren’t *obstacles* as much as they are genuine inquiries.)
2. We have questions from some who are out to raise doubt. (incorrect motive)
3. We have some who ask questions but who really don’t want the answers. (pretense)
4. We have some who choose NOT to ask the questions at all. (for various reasons)
5. We have some who, due to pride on their part, want to be the focus of the moment so they’ll use controversy to stir up the group. They don’t really care about the topic of conversation but instead want attention for themselves.
6. We have some who oppose the one bringing the answers – they have a personal vendetta against the speaker, not necessarily against the topic of address. They choose to use the topic of address to indirectly go after the person with whom they are at odds.
7. We have some who sidetrack the goal of the evening – they try to get off the topic onto other matters which don’t really relate to the matter at hand. Their reasons for doing so, vary.
8. We have folks who hold opposing views, ones which are in conflict with the Bible view we’re sharing.
9. Some simply don’t care but will raise questions anyway – again, for various *warfare* reasons.
10. The *shapers* (of opinion on specific issues) include: God and His Word, Satan and his demonic cohort, dark culture, and our flesh, to name only some. (These are not *obstacles* as much as they are influential instruments of *perspective shaping*.)

Can you think of any other reasons (obstacles) ? Other CRUCIAL matters tied to the above ...

- A. Our foundation must be explicitly biblical, if not, then we DON’T have sufficient (nor pure) grounds to offer **GOD’s** perspective. (This epistemic matter is tied to **all** concerns *under the sun*.)
- B. How we handle the Word once we use it is huge. IF our hermeneutical grid undermines the actual data of the Word, then we’ve chosen to depart from God’s perspective on the topic(s) of consideration being addressed. Yes, Bible *interpretation* is HUGE.

Have us come for a teaching series at your church on this matter of [Truth Foundations](#), especially as it ties to the crucial Bible doctrine of **end times**. Email Dr. Jon Swanson at email@endmin.org for details.