

BWV1
2022-2023
Q3

Text: *10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (And Answer) About Christianity*, Rebecca McLaughlin

Chapter 1 — How Can I Live My Best Life Now?

1. In this chapter, McLaughlin gives seven evidences for why Jesus was right when he said he gives his followers “abundant life.” List the seven evidences **and** write a one sentence summary of each one.
2. Look at evidence #5, Forgiveness is Good for You. Considering the verses she uses in this section, describe what the Bible teaches about forgiveness. (3-4 sentences)
3. Look at Evidence #7, Love of Money Lets Us Down. The Bible has a lot to say about money. It is a great tool for doing good, and it is also a test for our hearts. In addition to this section, read Proverbs 30:7-9 and write a paragraph on how Christians should understand money and possessions. (4-6 sentences)

Chapter 2 — Isn’t Christianity Against Diversity?

1. Some have accused Christianity of being “against diversity.” She gives three main reasons why people say this. What are they?
2. Pick two of the major headings from this chapter listed below. For each one you pick, write 4-6 sentences about how Christianity addresses the issues of diversity and difference.
 1. Jesus Created Diversity
 2. We’re All Made in God’s Image
 3. Jesus Commanded Love across Difference
 4. Them and Us, The Miracle of the Black Church
 5. Jesus Delivers Diversity

Chapter 3 — Can Jesus Be True for You but Not for Me?

1. McLaughlin summarizes this chapter at the end with this statement: “Saying all religions are equal paths to God sounds respectful, but it actually isn’t, because it doesn’t take the truth claims of any religion seriously.” Write 3-4 sentences on whether you agree or disagree with that statement. Use examples from the chapter.
2. Read John 14:6. What does this verse tell us about the Bible’s view of how one must be saved?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:15-17. According to this passage, what happens to Christianity if the resurrection is *not* true?
4. Write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) on how you could explain to a friend that Christianity is the only true path to God. (Look at the section “We Should Respect People...and Try to Persuade Them”)

Chapter 4 — Can’t We Just Be Good without God?

1. In this chapter, McLaughlin makes the point that through the influence of Christianity, the world’s sense of right and wrong has been influenced. Even non-Christians have noted this as true. She gives the examples of Tom Holland’s book *Dominion* and Yuval Noah Harari’s book, *Sapiens*. What are specific examples from this chapter of how Christianity has influenced society’s sense of right and wrong? Give 2-3 examples.
2. Do you agree with this quote: “The question at the heart of the abortion debate is whether an unborn baby is a human person, whose rights should also be considered as well as the rights of the mother.” Why or why not?

3. Write a paragraph on your view of abortion. Interact with the arguments McLaughlin makes in this chapter. (4-6 sentences)
4. In the section “Jesus Made All Lives Count” she talks about the different groups of people who were often cast aside that Jesus cared for. There are 3 groups mentioned (babies, the sick, and Samaritans). Look up the verses referenced in this section where Jesus talks about them. In your own words, describe why it’s important to care for these people from a Christian worldview. Can you think of any other relevant Bible verses?

Chapter 5 — How Can You Believe the Bible is True?

1. Answer **ONE** of the following prompts:
 - If you are currently struggling with the question, “is the Bible really true?” write 3-4 sentences about the questions you have and why.
 - If this is an issue that you’ve settled and you are convinced the Bible is true, write 3-4 sentences about what brings assurance that the Bible is true.
 - If you are convinced the Bible is *not* true, write 3-4 sentences describing how you came to that conclusion and note if you are open to new evidence or not.
2. Pick two examples from the section “Should we always read the Bible literally?” and explain how metaphors are being used in the verses.
3. McLaughlin ends this chapter with this quote: “Believing the Bible isn’t just for stupid people. It isn’t like believing in genies or giants. Some of the smartest people in the world believe the Bible, including professors of science, history, philosophy, and theology.” What would you say to someone who made the accusation, “only people who are not very smart believe the Bible.” (4-6 sentences) [*NO, you cannot just say they are not very smart :)]

Chapter 6 — Hasn’t Science Disproved Christianity?

1. Watch this 4 minute video of John Lennox. Explain what Lennox means by the term “god of the gaps.” How does the God of the Bible differ from the god of the gaps concept?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyXX8NZixNQ>
2. In the section, “Christians Invented Modern Science”, McLaughlin discusses the Christian motivation for doing science and even makes the argument that Christians have a better reason for doing science. Write 2-3 sentences on how Christianity can help someone do good science.
3. After reading the section, “What is a Human Being?” write 3-4 sentences on why humans are more than just “a computer.”
4. Look up the following passages and summarize what we learn about creation from them. (2-3 sentences each)
 1. Genesis 1:26-27
 2. Psalm 8
 3. Psalm 19

Chapter 7 — Why Can’t We Just Agree That Love is Love?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. How does the biblical understanding of love differ from popular ideas about love that we hear in the culture?
2. Sometimes people will say that the Bible does not actually condemn same sex relationships. Read Romans 1:18-31 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and write 2-3 sentences on what these verses say about same sex relationships. The section, “A Surprising Story” also interacts with these passages.
3. This chapter notes that human sexuality should be viewed as a positive thing but it must be kept in the proper place. When we pursue these things outside of God’s design, it’s like “building a campfire in the living room.” As a teenager, do you feel like there is a lot of cultural messages (movies, music, social media) that is the opposite of the Bible’s message on sexuality?
4. The two sections, “A Bit about Me” and “A Surprising Story” tell the stories of both McLaughlin and her friend, Rachel who both struggle with same sex attraction. Read these sections carefully and write

4-6 sentences on the idea of attraction and what to do about attractions that are not honoring to the Lord.

Chapter 8 — Who Cares if You're a Boy or a Girl?

1. Some have accused Christianity of being misogynistic (hateful toward women). Reread pages 135-139. Write 4-6 sentences summarizing what the Bible teaches about men, women, and equality.
2. McLaughlin writes about gender roles within the church in the section "So Does it Matter If We're Male or Female?" She holds to a position known as complementarianism. This view says that men and women serve different and complementary roles. Look at the scriptures she references in this section. Do you agree with her understanding? Why or why not?
3. Read the following two articles which discuss gender roles. What questions or thoughts do you have about gender and the Bible?
 - <https://www.gotquestions.org/complementarianism.html>
 - <https://www.gotquestions.org/egalitarianism.html>
4. Many people today say that you can separate your biological sex from your gender identity. Do you think gender is determined by biology or identity? Why?

Chapter 9 — Does God Care When We Hurt?

1. One of the most common objections to Christianity is that God can't possibly be both powerful and loving while evil and suffering exists. Have you had those types of thoughts before? If you have, write 3-4 sentences about the questions you've had. If this is not a question you have, write 3-4 sentences about how you could help someone work through this question.
2. McLaughlin chooses to address this issue by looking at the life of Jesus and his own suffering. Jesus understands our suffering because he became human and suffered as well. Read Hebrews 2:14-16 and Hebrews 4:15. Write 3-4 sentences about how it should impact us knowing that Jesus experienced full humanity.
3. McLaughlin ends the chapter by referencing Romans 8:18. Read this verse and write a short prayer of reflection to God helping you trust him in difficulty.

Chapter 10 — How Can You Believe in Heaven and Hell?

1. In the section, "Is Life without Jesus Really So Bad", McLaughlin gives the illustration of Bella Lightning the beta fish needing water. Explain this illustration and how it's related to people who do not seem to understand their need for God.
2. Read Matthew 10:28; 25:46. What do these verses tell us about salvation and judgment?
3. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10. There are two groups in these verses. Those who have believed the gospels and those who do not believe the gospel. Write 3-4 sentences about what these verses teach about the return of Jesus and the judgment he will bring.
4. McLaughlin writes: "Most of us like to think we're basically good people. We know we're not perfect. We sometimes do bad things. But at heart, we think we're pretty good." (173). This is a popular argument. What is your response to someone who thinks this way? (3-4 sentences)