



That's A Great Question: Is Christianity Irrational?

January 5 & 6, 2019 – John Ortberg

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, so we are providing a summary study with additional discussion questions in the Going Deeper section. Please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group.

Follow up from last week: In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 the apostle Paul said, “Give thanks in all circumstances.” How has practicing the spiritual discipline of gratitude increased your faith?

Connect

- 1. Which part of this weekend’s services did you find most spiritually nourishing?
- 2. What New Year’s resolutions did you make last year and how did it go?

Engage

1. Read Acts 17:16-33
 - What was Paul’s motivation in engaging in rational debate with the leading thinkers in Athens?
 - What were the results?
2. Read Luke 1:4; John 8:31-32; 2 Peter 1:5; 1 Corinthians 13:9 and 12; 8:1-3
 - What is the Biblical attitude to searching for truth?

Apply

1. What has been your own debate/wrestling with truth and faith?
2. Where are you not living up to what you know? In other words, where might your future self come back to you and say “you knew better” – your finances, family, work, time, words, etc?
3. What new step will you take this week with God to increase your faith and knowledge?

Pray

Pray for one another Paul’s prayer for the Colossians:

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1: 9-14



Going Deeper

Connect

Harvard professor Steven Pinker has said “Universities are about reason, pure and simple. Faith—believing things without good reason to do so—has no place in anything but a religious institution.” What do you think?

Engage

Read Romans 1:21

How does our response to God’s revelation affect our ability to perceive truth?

Apply

What is your working hypothesis of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus? How can it be verified?

Learning Opportunity

Interested to learn more and discuss with others who are also seeking truth? Join an Alpha group.

Find out more and sign up at [Menlo.Church/alpha](https://menlo.church/alpha)

Serving Opportunity

Paul was always ready to serve. How about you? Check out places where you can make a difference via Menlo Church and beyond at [Menlo.Church/serve](https://menlo.church/serve)

Personal Sermon Review: Misconceptions about belief in God.

1. “Faith” means believing things for no good reason.
The Christian understanding of how things are did **not** grow by avoiding rational consideration through the imposition of authority, it grew by inviting rational consideration often in opposition to authority.
Acts 17:17-18
2. You can’t believe in science AND believe in God.
The declaration that science is the only arbiter of truth is not itself a scientific finding—it’s a statement of faith. Christians above all people have an obligation to fearlessly and humbly follow truth, in every sphere, in every discipline, wherever it leads.
2 Peter 1:5
3. No one can really know moral or spiritual truth, so agnosticism is the best response.
The problem is that the statement: “It is always wrong to make moral judgments” is a moral judgment. It refutes its own self. Knowing right from wrong is essential to our humanity.
John 8:31-32; Romans 1:21
4. Christianity is about being right.
We are not here to show everybody that we’re right. We’re here to show everybody God’s love.
1 Corinthians 8:1-3

