

*In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you: yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

1 Peter 3:15 (English Standard Version)

Stoa Apologetics is designed to help students understand the core issues of their faith. Students will craft a response considering their audience may or may not accept the Bible as truth. The speech is not intended to be a sermon, and it is not necessarily a presentation of the Gospel or an overtly evangelistic opportunity. Therefore, the presentation should be a thoughtful response to the question/topic and the reason(s) why it is important for theological truth and Christian living.

*Questions marked with references (such as "C1-D1") are for easy cross-referencing to similar categories and questions from the 2019-2020 season.*

## Category 1: The Character and Nature of God

1. What does it mean that God is triune? Why is this important? *C1-D1*
2. What does it mean that God is omniscient? Why is this important? *C1-D2, D4*
3. What does it mean that God is omnipresent? Why is this important? *C1-D4*
4. What does it mean that God is eternal? Why is this important? *C1-D5*
5. What is the meaning of the sovereignty of God? Why is this important? *C1-D6*
6. Christians often argue for God's existence by suggesting the universe needs an initial cause? But what caused God? *C1-GQ4*
7. What does the virgin birth of Jesus Christ mean? Why is this important? *C5-D2*
8. What evidence is there for the existence of God in our physical universe? *C1-SA6*
9. What does it mean that Jesus Christ is the Messiah? Why is this important? *C5-D4,*
10. Is there historical evidence for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? Why is it important? *C5-GQ2, GQ3, GQ4*
11. Why is it important that Jesus Christ be both fully God and fully man? *C5-D1, GQ1*
12. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Why is this important?
13. What is the role of the Holy Spirit? Why is this important? *C1GQ7*
14. What does it mean that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?

## Category 2: Foundations of Christianity

1. What does it mean that man is totally depraved? Why is this important? *C3-D1*
2. What does it mean for man to repent from his sins? Why is this important? *C3-D3*
3. Compare and contrast justification with sanctification. *C4-D1, C3-D2*
4. What is redemption? Why is this important? *C4-D3*
5. What does it mean to forgive? Why is this important?
6. In John 10:10, Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.” What did He mean? *C5-SA2*
7. What is the grace of God? Why is this important? *C1-D5*
8. What does the term “fall of man” mean and why is it important?
9. How can a Christian have assurance of salvation? *C4-GQ4*
10. Respond to the question: “Jesus said He would return soon. So where is He?”
11. What is the importance of prayer? *C4-GQ8*
12. What does it mean to walk by faith? Why is this important?
13. What does it mean to call Jesus Christ the “Lamb of God”? Why is this important? *C5-D6*
14. What is the importance of the resurrection of Jesus? *C5-GQ4*

### Category 3: Scripture

1. Why are the unity and the sufficiency of Scripture important? *C2-D1, D2*
2. How can I trust what the Bible says over all the other religious writings? *C2-D3, SA5*
3. What does the inspiration of Scripture mean? Why is this important? *C2-D4*
4. How would you respond to someone claiming the Quran is the true word of God? *C6-D3*
5. How does the Book of Mormon compare to the Bible? *C6-D5*
6. What is the Gospel and why is it the core of the Christian faith?
7. Is the Bible historically reliable? Why is this important? *C2-GQ1, GQ2*
8. Does science contradict the Bible? *C2-GQ4*
9. Can you take the Bible literally? *C2-SA3*
10. Why should you study the Bible?
11. Does the Bible condone slavery? *C2-SA3*
12. Respond to the statement: "The Bible is full of contradictions." *C2-SA6*
13. Respond to the statement: "The Bible is simply the work of a great conspiracy where people sought to create a religion of their own." *C2-SA1*
14. How did we get the biblical canon we have today, and how can we trust that it is truly the Word of God?

## Category 4: God and Man

1. Does God reveal Himself to man? And if so, how? *C1-GQ1*
2. What does it mean to be holy? Why is this important?
3. Can God be both merciful and just to mankind? *C1-GQ3*
4. Can morality exist without God? *C1-GQ6*
5. What do secular theories of human origins get right and wrong about human nature? *C3-GQ1*
6. How could a loving God send man to Hell? *C3-GQ2*
7. Explain what is meant by the statement, “God hates the sin but loves the sinner.” *C3-GQ3*
8. What is man’s purpose? *C3-GQ4*
9. When does human life begin? Why is this important? *C3-GQ5*
10. How is it possible for an individual to have a personal relationship with an almighty God?
11. Can a person do enough good in life to get into heaven? *C6-SA1*
12. If God is omnipotent and holy, how could He allow so much sin and suffering in the world? *C1-D3, C1-GQ2, C1-GQ5*
13. Respond to the statement by St. Augustine: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” *C3-SA*
14. What is your response to someone who asks, “Is there judgment after death?” *C3-SA2*

## Category 5: Christian Worldview Application

1. What is your response to the critique that Christians are intolerant and unloving? *C6-GQ2*
2. What will happen to the people who have never heard about Jesus and the Gospel? *C4-GQ5*
3. Why was Jesus known for associating with sinners? To what extent should Christians follow His example? *C5-GQ6*
4. Compare and contrast God's view of marriage with the world's view.
5. Respond to the statement by Debasish Mridha: "There is no absolute truth. There is only your truth."
6. Respond to Dwight L. Moody's quote: "Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man." *C4-SA2*
7. How would you respond to the belief that everyone will be saved eventually because of God's unconditional love? *C4-GQ6, 7*
8. Compare and contrast the modern environmental movement's view of caring for the earth with the Christian view. *C6-GQ1*
9. From where does a person's identity come? Why is this important?
10. Respond to the statement: "Evolution disproves Christianity."
11. Is **all** human life valuable and if so why?
12. Respond to the Karl Marx quote: "Religion is the opium of the people." *C1-SA3*
13. How would you respond to the critique that "God the Father" is a sexist term that demeans women in general and mothers in particular? *C2-SA2*
14. Analyze the quote by Fyodor Dostoevsky: "If there is no God, then all things are permissible."

## Category 6: Christianity Compared

1. Compare and contrast the Muslim view of God with the Christian view of God. *C6-D2*
2. Compare and contrast the Hindu view of the nature of man with the Christian view of the nature of man. *C6-D4*
3. Respond to the statement by Buddha: “No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path.” *C6-SA3*
4. Is karma a biblical concept? *C6-GQ3*
5. How would you respond to the criticism that Christianity is narrow-minded and dangerous?
6. Are Jehovah’s Witnesses Christians? *C6-GQ5*
7. Are Mormons Christians? *C6-GQ6*
8. How many ways are there to heaven? *C4-GQ7*
9. Compare and contrast Scientology with Christianity.
10. Respond to the Bill Gates quote: “In terms of doing things I take a fairly scientific approach to why things happen and how they happen. I don’t know if there’s a god or not...” *C4-SA5*
11. Respond to the statement by Ernest Hemingway: “All thinking men are atheists.” *C1-SA4*
12. Respond to the quote from Michael Shermer: “Play hard, work hard, love hard... The bottom line for me is to live life to the fullest in the here-and-now instead of a hoped-for hereafter.” *C4-SA7*
13. What are the unique features of Christianity that set it apart from all other religions of the world? *C6-GQ7*
14. Is the “Force” from *Star Wars* a reasonable allegory for Christianity? Why or why not?

**Executive Summary of changes from current Apologetics questions:**

The total number of questions has been reduced from 100 to 84. Some of the questions are unchanged, while others have been edited, combined, or replaced by entirely new questions. Many of the concepts remain the same. Wording has been reduced and simplified. Where applicable, cross references to former questions follow each question.