

❖ Reasons Ministries ❖

Talking To Mormons

Several weeks ago I was painting at my daughter and son-in-law's house. I was going to go outside. When I opened the front door there were two Mormon young men at the door. You know, two Mormon missionaries. Although I have forgotten their names, they were both very polite, well spoken and they even offered to help me paint.

In the past, I have not always had positive encounters with Mormons. Sometimes they have gotten angry with me due to me turning the tables on them with me raising questions about their beliefs. The two men at my daughter's house were both quite respectful and I hoped to have a positive experience with them. And that is what we had.

The Mormon missionaries began telling me about their faith and I listened for a few minutes. I then decided to seize the conversation and I began asking them questions. I decided that the best tack to take would be to center on Christ. I asked them what they believed about Jesus Christ, who he was, and his relation to the Father. I focused on the fact that Mormons believe that Jesus was born as a result of a physical union with Heavenly Father and Mary. I raised the question about whether they believed that Jesus was eternal or if he had a beginning. They believed that Jesus had a beginning. Of course this contradicts the Bible. I then pointed out that with our different views about Jesus, both views could not be true. They could both be false but they could not both be true. I then pointed out how recent genetic research has disproven the Mormon claims that the South American Indians were not related to the Jews (as Mormon doctrine teaches). I raised questions about the gold plates that Joseph Smith purportedly discovered that contained the Book of Mormon. There were several other issues I raised too.

The whole time I was interacting with the two missionaries, our conversation was respectful and engaging. My purpose in our discussion was to sow some seeds of doubt in their minds about what they believe. I know the Mormon missionaries are well trained, but several times during our talk, when I asked them questions about their faith, they would reply, "we are young and do not know all the answers." I appreciated their honesty. At the end of our discussion, I challenged them to be seekers after truth. I told them if they truly searched for truth, God would help them find the truth. I then asked them if they would let me pray for them, and surprisingly, they said yes. So I did pray, asking God to open their eyes to see the truth about Jesus so that one day they would be in heaven.

Are you prepared to interact with Mormons, or Jehovah's witnesses. or a skeptic and share your faith while challenging their beliefs? Remember, Peter challenges us in 1 Peter 3:15 "in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . ." This verse explains the purpose of Reasons Ministries. I would love to come to your church and spend a weekend of ministry aimed at equipping your congregation to "always be prepared to given and answer to everyone who asks . . ."

Got Questions??

About God and the problem of suffering?

The Bible's reliability?

The uniqueness of Christ?

What is a worldview?

Christianity vs. Other Religions

Basic Apologetics?

Evolution vs. Creationism

**I can help with answers!
Give me a call or send me an email! I would love to come to your church for a weekend of ministry.**

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Reasons Ministries' Mission

The mission of Reasons Ministries is to equip believers to know what and why they believe so they can stand firm in the Christian faith, be effective tools in God's hand for reaching those that do not yet know Christ and to be able to apply practical apologetics to everyday life.

David, thank you for working us into your schedule. The weekend was informative, challenging, uplifting and very profitable for our congregation. You did what we asked you to do and more. Thank you.

—Rev. John Zwirn, Kokomo, IN



Question: Why do bad things happen to Christians? Why doesn't God protect us from evil? Doesn't he care about us?

Answer: These questions came from my sons recently. What prompted the questions? Beth, my wife of 32 years and the mother of our three adult children was diagnosed recently with uterine cancer. Something we never expected. Our hope is that the cancer has been caught early and that Beth has a good prognosis. We will find out soon.

The problem of evil and suffering is the most common objection to the existence of God. It is the issue that we Christians struggle with the most as well. When the problem of evil hits very close to home, it is never easy. One of the presentations I often give in the churches I speak in is the problem of suffering and evil. Now, however, theory is becoming reality.

Concerning the problem of evil, there is an emotional aspect and an intellectual aspect. Intellectually, we know that we live in a sinful, fallen world. Due to Adam and Eve's sin, suffering was unleashed upon all who would follow them, including us. Suffering comes from three sources, supernatural, moral and natural evil. Supernatural evil comes from Satan and his demons. Moral evil comes from fellow humans, and our own sinful actions. Natural evil is the suffering that comes as a result of natural events (earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes,

floods, etc.). Each source of evil afflicts both Christians and nonChristians (Luke 13:1-5; Matt. 5:45).

We struggle most with the problem of evil not intellectually, but emotionally. Why me, we ask? Why would God allow this to happen to me? **First**, we can take hope in the promises of God to walk with us no matter what we face (Heb. 13:5; Is. 40).

Second, in Psalm 73, Asaph wrote of his struggle with the unfairness of this world. His conclusion was that the suffering of this world makes no sense apart from this truth: God is our refuge in both this world and the world to come. **Third**, the church is given the task of bearing each other's burdens through prayer, encouragement, helping, loving and being Christ to those who suffer (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:9-13).

Fourth, Paul, who endured horrendous suffering, learned that nothing in all this world can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Rom. 8:31-39). **Fifth**, for those in Christ, we know that heaven awaits us (Rev. 21:3-7). Unless Jesus returns first, we will all die. But in Christ, we will all be made alive (1 Cor. 15:22)!

While there are no easy answers to the suffering we endure in this world, and we may never have the answer to the why questions this side of heaven, we do know that God is not untouched by suffering. His Son died on the cross, taking our sin, and he knows what it is like to suffer more than anyone. This is why he can both sympathize with us when we do suffer and why he has the strength, mercy and grace we need to endure whatever we may face (Heb. 4:12-14). Thanks be to the One who loves us with an everlasting love!

About David



- 18 Years of Pastoral Ministry. Ordained and Licensed through the Ohio Valley District of the C&MA
- Adjunct Professor @ Indiana Wesleyan University at the Louisville, KY Campus since 2001 Have taught 11 different courses and over 800 students (many courses were in Bible and Apologetics).
- Graduate of Toccoa Falls College with a B.A. in Missiology and Alliance Theological Seminary with a Masters in cross-cultural and

theological studies.

- Additional Masters level work at TFC and Columbia International University
- Serving on Ohio Valley District LO&CC and as a District Presbyterian
- Started Reasons Ministries in November 2008
- Married 32 years to Beth with three adult children and two adorable grandchildren.

Prayer Needs:

- Please pray for speaking opportunities for me in 2012.
- Please pray for God to provide the ongoing financial support I need so that Reasons Ministries can become self-supporting.

Recent & Upcoming Events:

October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 2011 — Doctrine Classes just completed at Northeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY. Topics included: 1. What does it mean to be human? (Biblical Anthropology); 2. What has gone wrong with the world? (Hamartiology, sin); 3. What does it mean to be saved? (Soteriology); 4. How to live the Christian life abundantly? (Sanctification).

??? 2012 — Perhaps an apologetics or doctrine weekend at your church this coming year? Call me, I look forward to talking with you!

Great Resource:

Defenders Class Podcast
Dr. William Lane Craig

One of the premier Christian apologists in the world, who debates atheists and other skeptics regularly, also teaches a weekly Sunday School class in his home church in Atlanta, Georgia. The Apologist is Dr. William Lane Craig. The Defenders Class podcast is available on iTunes: (<http://feeds.feedburner.com/DefendersPodcast>) The class is a systematic five year course on Christian doctrine with some apologetics thrown in as well. Topics include the doctrines of the existence of God, Jesus Christ, the church, the last things, etc. The teaching is solid, scholarly, and well worth the time spent listening. Your understanding of Christian doctrine will be greatly enhanced.

Below is a good link about why our Christian kids are dropping out of church. Check it out: [Five Myths About Young Adult Church Dropouts](#)