

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: What are the common questions college students are asking today?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

1. It may be of value to preface this lesson with following guidelines or reflections:
 - a. Be completely honest, sincere, and transparent – with yourself.
 - b. Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with ‘truth’? Why?
 - c. How or where do you obtain a definition of ‘good’? Why do you find it there?
Can everyone else?
 - d. Given your life experiences, what you have been taught, what you read in the Bible, and what you believe, what are your expectations of “church”?
2. Question 1: Is there any such thing as ultimate truth?
 - a. What is truth? Or is there truth? (Jo 8.31,32; 17.17-19)
 - b. The counter-question asked, then, is there anything absolute?
 - c. Why is the probable response “absolutely not” ironic?
 - d. If there is no absolute truth can there be absolute morality?
 - e. Be honest and transparent with yourself. Without any truth, would you feel or be secure? Would you feel assurance?
 - f. What do you think? (John 1.14; 3.21; 8.31,32,40,45-47; 14.6; 16.13; 17.17-19; 18.36,37)
3. Question 2: Can I be good without God?
 - a. If I can answer ‘yes’ to this question, what does that mean for me? (Ro 1.18ff)
 - b. If I must answer ‘no’ to this question, what does that mean for me?
 - c. If ‘yes’, then, do I need to listen to God?
 - d. Maybe people should ask themselves “can I be good?” and then, if the answer is yes, the question must be asked: “Who or what defines ‘good’?”
 - e. How or where do you obtain a definition of ‘good’? Why do you find it there?
Can everyone else? If ‘yes’, isn’t that ‘truth’?
 - f. Jesus said, “why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.” Mark 10.17,18. Discuss whether this helps answer the question.

4. Embedded within the question “Can I be good without God” the following concepts or ‘issues’ can be found. Discuss:
 - a. Social justice – as the ‘new religion’. What do you think?
 - b. Liberal politics and its agenda. What is this? What do you think?
 - c. What is virtue signaling and how is it used and who is affected?
 - d. If this is all connected to being good without God, can it really “pharisaical”?
 - e. If so, how ironic is that?
5. Question 3: do we need church, or need “to go to” church, to be a good Christian?
 - a. Isn’t this sort of asking “can I be good without church?”
 - b. Isn’t this related to “can I be good without God?”
 - c. Is this a complete rejection of God the creator and His church?
 - d. If the question can answered ‘yes’, discuss that answer in light of Matt 16.15-18, Acts 2.47, Acts 20.28, Col 1.15-20; 1 Tim 3.15; Heb 12.22,23
 - e. If the church is unnecessary, discuss within the context of Eph 5.22-33.
 - f. Without the church that Jesus bought with His blood, can there be salvation?
6. Perhaps there are two issues at war within us regarding the church.
 - a. The first is ‘going to church’ – what has that become to really mean and how is it manifested in our contemporary experiences? Is this really the main issue?
 - i. As discussed in the video, does this reflect lifelessness, dullness, going through empty motions?
 - ii. Excitement, fast and faster, and/or loud and louder?
 - iii. ‘charade’ and ‘performance’ are used in the video. What do you think?
 - b. Are people drawn to something, or are they trying to get away from something?
 - c. The second is what is “church”? What is it that we are (all of us, by different methods and pressures) being told and sold by the world & media, by our friends, family, schools, government? From the church itself and its teachers and preachers?

- d. Discuss. Why do Christians “come together”? (Acts 20.7; 1 Cor 11.17f; 1 Cor 14.23f; 14.26f; 16.1-2; For an advanced, mature study, does 1 Cor 7.1-5 have application?)
- e. What is your / our expectation, anyway? What does ‘church’ mean to you?

7. Thought and discussion topics.

- a. When man (the creation) no longer believes or accepts that the one true God exists, what happens to the idea and reality of ‘sin’?
- b. If God and sin no longer exist, what happens to the consequences of sin? (Ro 1.18ff)
- c. Is there a truth for you and a different truth for me? How is that possible?
- d. Discuss: Young people are beneficiaries of a system that assumes God. As long as that assumption of God continues, there are moral foundations that can only come from there being God. Truth or not truth?
- e. Can there be good without God? How is ‘good’ defined and valued or weighted? If there is ‘good’, is there something else? Without God, then who? Or how?
- f. Discuss: Without God – at all – there is nothing good or bad – at all.
- g. Discuss: Without God, it is a only a natural universe. A natural universe does not and cannot make moral judgments. It simply survival of the fittest. True or not?
- h. Remove God entirely; no remnant, no thought, no memory of God. What kind of world society will exist? It is compared to the Serengeti plain. What does that mean? (Gen 6.5,11,12)