

Why Christianity makes sense – Bible Study

For Starters

- Why do you think it can be difficult for us to change a belief once we have committed to it?

1. Christianity makes sense historically

- What difference does it make that Christianity claims Jesus actually lived, died and rose rather than simply teaching some good ideas?

2. Christianity makes sense biblically

- How would you describe the bible's story in one sentence?
- The bible is a collection of 66 books, written across centuries, by many different authors (separated by time, geography, and language) and yet it tells one coherent story (creation > fall > redemption > new creation). How is this evidence of divine authorship?

3. Christianity makes sense logically

- What might be behind our doubt? Is it actually a lack of evidence, or something we already believe which makes us unwilling to believe?
- Do you think we sometimes demand more evidence from Christianity than we demand from other areas of life? Give examples.
- What might motivate this?
- Evidence alone doesn't necessarily compel or change belief. Israel saw miracles, and the people who opposed Jesus saw his mighty works. Why doesn't evidence alone seem to work? What else is at play?

4. Christianity makes sense relationally

- Faith is a relational concept. Faith is trust on the basis of what we know.
- How does faith grow as we get to know someone?
- How does this apply to Jesus?

5. Christianity makes sense of the world around us

- God or Chance? What best explains the order we see in the world, our sense of right and wrong, and our instinct that every human being has inherent value? Why?

6. Christianity makes sense of suffering and death

- If the universe is ultimately the product of chance, on what basis can we say that suffering is objectively wrong or that the world ought to be different?
- While Christianity doesn't offer a glib or comprehensive answer to suffering, how does it (Jesus) help us make sense of it?

7. Christianity makes sense of life

- How does the Bible's story – that we are made in God's image, yet live in a broken world and struggle with selfishness – make sense of our experience of life, our inherent worth, and our longing for restoration, which comes through Jesus?

8. Christianity makes sense because it is beautiful (and true)

- Jesus' example of self-giving love stands as the central jewel. Christians are called to imitate Christ in his humble, generous, compassionate, joyful, and sacrificial love. This is beautiful.

SO

1. Which part of Christianity makes the most sense to you?
2. Which part do you struggle with most?
3. Is your or your friend's biggest obstacle intellectual, emotional, relational, moral – or something else?
4. What might be a positive step forward in this?

Pray together

By the way ...

- ◆ The **321** course (introducing Jesus) starts next Sunday 16th at 5pm for four weeks in the Kelman room Please register yourself and your friend at <https://standrews.net.au>
- ◆ Scroll down to 'What's on'. Click and hit '321 sign up now'