

Chapters

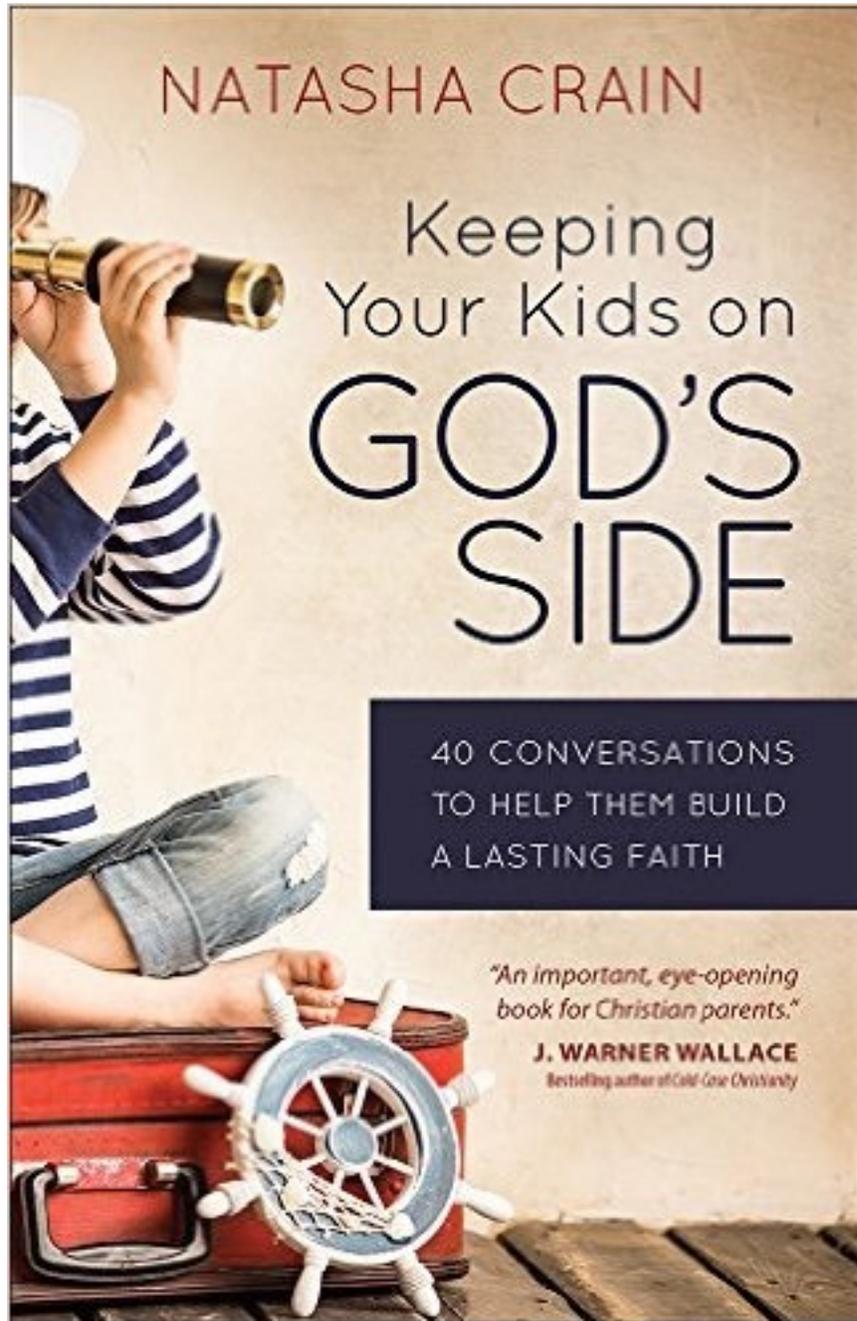
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Introduction

I began recommending Christian books to students decades ago for the purpose of helping them know about some of the better resources available to them. Many of the books were about Bible study, theology, discipleship, Church history and apologetics. The response was almost always positive, so I decided to review books online to help even more students know about books that would both inform and challenge. Most of the books I review are new or of recent origin.

Book Review Volume II is the second in a series about books on the primary subject of “Apologetics” on FaithandSelfDefense.com. Another series you may find helpful is *A Reading Plan For Christian Apologists*, also on FaithandSelfDefense.com.

Our hope is that you will find books you can add to your Christian library — books that will become your friends and allies as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



“Keeping Your Kids on God’s Side: 40 Conversations To Help Them Build A Lasting Faith” by Natasha Crain (Harvest house Publishers, 2016) is a book I’ve been highly anticipating for the past year.

Natasha is founder of the very popular Christian Mom Thoughts website, the Christian Parenting Blog, and the Apologetics for Parents Facebook group.

Natasha is a wife and mother who left her corporate job to make a difference in the lives of families. Her new book (available March 1, 2016) is a great step in doing just that.

I’m a father and grandfather and have worked with children and youth ministries for almost 45 years. I’ve seen a lot of Christian books written for parents to help their children. Many are okay, but few are outstanding. *Keeping Your Kids on God’s Side* is definitely one of the few. It is an outstanding guide for parents and comes at a key moment in history when Christian families are under some of the most intense attacks the world has seen for a long time.

I was raised by Christian parents and spent my childhood and early teen years in church, but was led toward atheism by many of the challenges Natasha Crain has listed in her book.

Natasha has organized *Keeping Your Kids on God's Side* in a way that parents can get answers to tough questions quickly. She addresses five categories of conversations: Conversations About God, Conversations About Truth and Worldviews, Conversations About Jesus, Conversations About the Bible, and Conversations About Science. Each category has eight chapters with several pages per chapter; plenty of information to help parents answer their children's questions without being too much to absorb and use. Here's an example of one of the categories:

Part 1: Conversations About God

Chapter 1. What evidence is there for God's existence?

Chapter 2. How could a good God allow evil and suffering?

Chapter 3. why would God command the genocide of the Canaanites?

Chapter 4. How can a loving God send people to hell?

Chapter 5. How can God judge people who have never even heard about Jesus?

Chapter 6. Why would God need people to worship Him?

Chapter 7. Why is God so hidden?

Chapter 8. Is faith in God the opposite of reason?

Do any of these questions sound familiar? If you are a parent or work with children and youth, I'm sure you've heard them. You'll find that to be the case with all five categories. They address some of the toughest questions our kids will ask. Giving them great answers can make a big difference as they make the Christian faith their own.

I highly recommend *Keeping Your Kids on God's Side* for every Christian parent, grandparent, pastor, church leader, and adult who works with children and teens.

Contents

Part 1: Conversations About God (8 chapters)

Part 2: Conversations About Truth and Worldviews (8 chapters)

Part 3: Conversations About Jesus (8 chapters)

Part 4: Conversations About the Bible (8 chapters)

Part 5: Conversations About Science (8 chapters)

10 Tips for Having Deeper Faith Conversations with Your Kids

Reviews

“I consider *Keeping Your Kids on God's Side* to be an important, eye-opening ‘gateway’ book. Natasha has done a wonderful job of quickly introducing the important issues and evidences from the perspective of a parent. She’s engaging, thoughtful, and she knows how to throw the ball so you can catch it. Let *Keeping Your Kids on God's Side* serve as an introduction to the most important work you will ever do as a parent.” J. Warner Wallace, author of *Cold-Case Christianity* and *God's Crime Scene*, international speaker, professor at Biola University

“I almost wish my children were young again so I could use Natasha Crain’s book with them. Through her parenting blog, Crain has access to the most important questions and challenges parents are hearing from their children today. She writes in strong, vigorous prose and does a great job of pitching her answers at a level that parents can understand—and, even more importantly, that they can use.” Nancy Pearcey, author of *Total Truth* and *Finding Truth*, apologetics professor, Houston Baptist University

“Keeping Your Kids on God’s Side is a timely and much-needed book. Natasha provides a road map so parents feel equipped to have the critical (and difficult) faith conversations with their kids. If you want to see your kids have a vibrant faith, then get this book and start having these conversations with your kids today!” Sean McDowell, author of more than 15 books, including *A New Kind of Apologist*, international speaker, professor at Biola University

“Keeping Your Kids on God’s Side is an outstanding resource every Christian parent should have in their home library...this book is the most accessible, non-intimidating treatment of key apologetics issues I’ve seen to date, and I will be recommending it to every parent I encounter!” Melissa Cain Travis, Assistant Professor of Apologetics, Houston Baptist University author of *Young Defenders* series of apologetics books for kids

“Parents, wake up. The secular culture is challenging our kids like never before and we’ve got to prepare them for the barrage of false ideas they will most certainly face. Apologetic conversations are no longer optional; they’re a necessary part of our kids’ discipleship. Thankfully, *Keeping Your Kids on God’s Side* is the resource we all need. It’s accessible and comprehensive, and it will equip you to engage your kids in conversations that count, big time.” Brett Kunkle, Student Impact Director
Stand to Reason

“Many well-intentioned, godly parents unknowingly send their children out into the world malnourished by an insufficient diet of evidence for their faith...We know. Ratio Christi sees it every day in our chapters on high school and college campuses. Students come to us starving for ways to defend their faith from intellectual assault. As the director of parent outreach at Ratio Christi, I’ve been looking for a tool to recommend to parents so they can start this training early at home. This is it. Start feeding your family a steady diet of *Keeping Your Kids on God’s Side* to strengthen their hearts and minds for the battles against the secular smorgasbord they will face.” Julie Loos, Director, Ratio Christi Boosters

“As a youth pastor, I’m thrilled to see an apologetics book written with parents in mind! It is not a matter of if your children or students will encounter arguments against Christianity, but when. Questions will come, and when they do, where will your kids find answers? The Internet? Their college professors? Atheist friends? We need to take

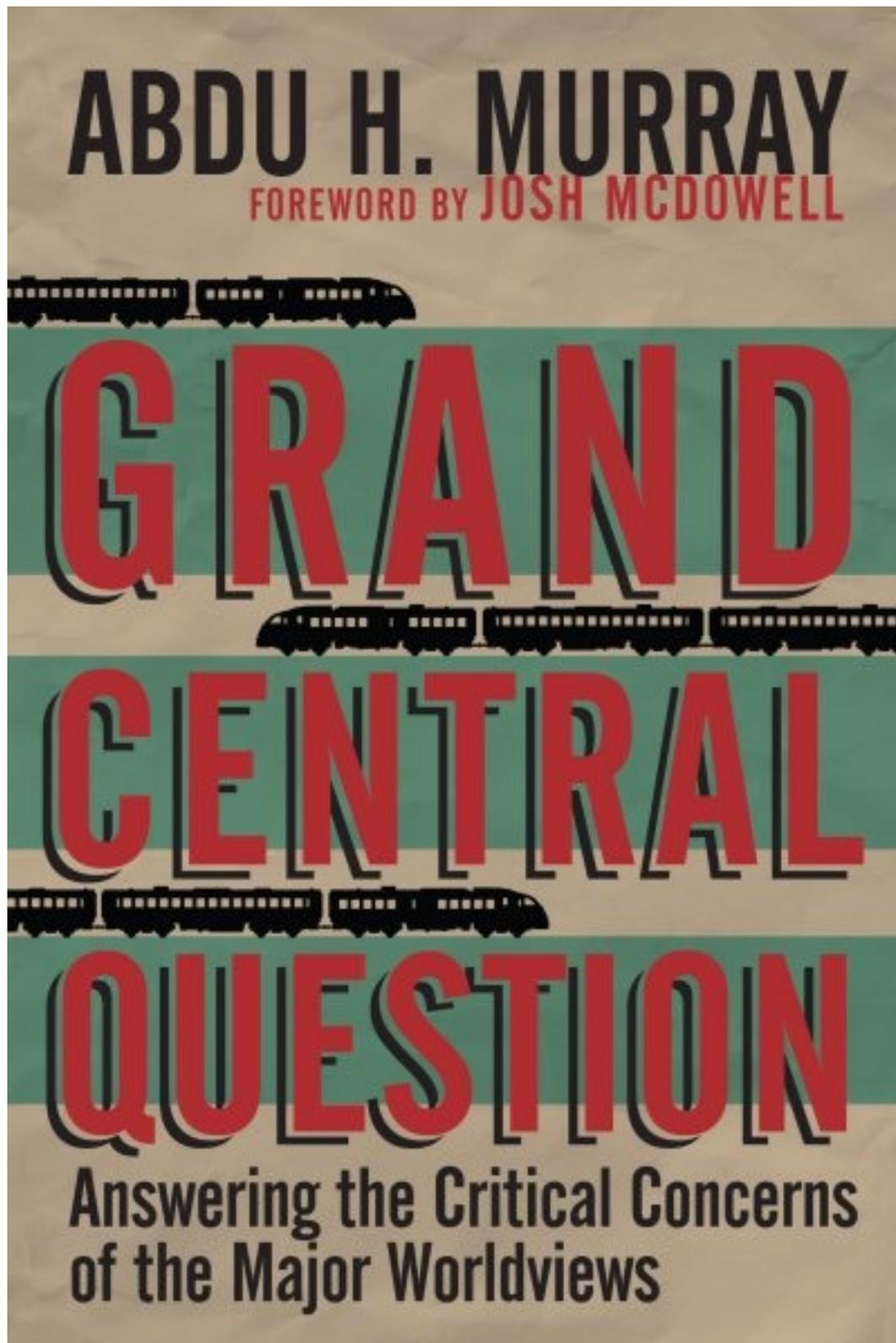
responsibility to equip ourselves to be that resource...this book will help you do just that!" Patrick Brown, Student Ministries Director Whitehaven Road Baptist Church

"As a pastor over family ministries, I am very excited about this book! It answers many of the strong objections against Christianity in amazing depth, yet in such a clear manner that even someone new to apologetics can easily understand it." Jared Novak, Family Pastor New Life Church Bonita Springs

"I strongly recommend Keeping Your Kids on God's Side for parents who need brief but trustworthy answers to the skeptical objections their kids are likely to encounter...It is rare that so much solid information is found in one accessible resource!" Douglas Beaumont, Professor of Theology, Belmont Abbey College

"Aside from the Bible, Keeping Your Kids on God's Side has just become the most important book in our house. Natasha walks you through all the 'tough' questions in such a way that it makes conversations with your kids easy...To be honest, this book has helped me with things I've wrestled with myself! I will be buying a copy for every parent I know and care about." Mirinda, mom of 3

[Keeping Your Kids on God's Side: 40 Conversations To Help Them Build A Lasting Faith](#), Harvest House Publishers, 2016, 269 pages



Grand Central Question: Answering the Critical Concerns of the Major Worldviews by Abdu Murray (IVP Books, 2014) is a great read for all Christians who are sharing or want to share the Gospel of Christ with people in their community.

Abdu Murray is North American Director with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. *Grand Central Question* is his second book. His first was *Apocalypse Later: Why the Gospel of Peace Must Trump the Politics of Prophecy in the Middle East* (Kregel Academic & Professional, 2009).

Murray holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School. He was named several times in Best Lawyers in America and Michigan Super Lawyer. Murray is the Scholar in Residence of Christian Thought and Apologetics at the Josh McDowell Institute of Oklahoma Wesleyan University. He is also a former Muslim.

Everyone has a worldview, whether they realize it or not. How someone “views” the world is their “worldview.” Some people view the world from the perspective of believing in God. Some people view the world from the perspective of believing in many gods. Some people view the world from the perspective of not believing in God or gods. Even those who believe in one God disagree about God’s identity.

Abdu Murray was raised in Islam and was a powerful advocate for his religion. He challenged people from other worldviews, like Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and atheism, with his belief that Islam was the only true religion and Allah was the only true God. Christians challenged Murray to consider the Gospel of Christ, which started a nine-year search for the truth that eventually led Murray to become a Christian. Murray used his experience as a lawyer and former Muslim to write a book that gets to the core of three major worldviews by looking at the “grand central question” for each. The worldviews are Secular Humanism, Pantheism and Islam.

“Why examine these various worldviews and their Grand Central Questions? Why care what their respective answers are and how the gospel’s answers compare? It is not merely an academic exercise or a matter of mere philosophical or theological curiosity. True, if we take this investigation seriously, we may have to dwell on our differences and not just our similarities, which causes us to run the risk of challenging the politically correct version of pluralism that holds sway in the West. But we cannot sacrifice an honest assessment of our differences on the politically correct altar of tolerance.” Abu Murray, Chapter One

Josh McDowell wrote the Foreward of Murray's book –

“People are looking for answers to the deepest questions in life. Some thing that they have found the answers in a particular worldview or religion, but many are still looking. Maybe their worldview gives them answers to only some of their questions. Maybe it doesn't even that far. The point is, they are looking. This book, Grand Central Question, is meant both for the people looking for those answers and for those who want to know how to provide the answers lovingly and intelligently.”

Josh McDowell, Foreward

Our Ratio Christi chapter at the University of Alabama in Huntsville is helping promote [Abdu Murray's speaking event at UAH](#) on the evening of April 20th. His talk is titled “Jesus Among Other Gods: Are All Beliefs the Same?” It is obvious from reading Grand Central Question that his talk is going to be insightful and important. I highly recommend the book to you, and if you're in the Huntsville area on April 20th, please join us for Abdu Murray's talk and Q&A session at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, University Conference and Training Center, 1410 Ben Graves Drive, Huntsville, Alabama. Admission is Free!

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Foreword by Josh McDowell

Prologue: What Truth Costs—What Truth is Worth

1. Grand Central Questions

Part I: Secular Humanism or the Gospel—Which Provides Us with Intrinsic Value and Objective Purpose?

2. Secular Humanism: The Secular Search

3. Saying Nothing as Loud as We Can

4. Will the Real Humanism Please Stand Up?

Part II: Eastern & Western Spirituality or the Gospel—Which Gives Real Answers to Suffering?

5. Pantheism and Pain

6. Escaping the Escapism

Part III: Islam or the Gospel—Which Tells Us About God's Greatness?

7. From Whence Comes God's Greatness?

8. God's Greatness and the Preservation of the Gospel

9. God's Triune Greatness

10. Greatness Incarnate

Epilogue: A Worldview that Views the Whole World

Reviews

“Murray presents the representative ideas [of the major worldviews] but also seeks to show that Christianity can answer the questions in the best way. The most insightful chapters relate to Islam, as the author was raised a Muslim and has an excellent understanding of the tenets of this religion. Those interested in worldviews and in Christian apologetics will find this book has significant appeal.” (John Jaeger, *Library Journal*, June 1, 2014)

“The most popular approach to the Christian faith today may, in fact, be apologetics. Movies . . . and many books on apologetics find their legs from the view that whoever shouts the loudest (or is the last one standing) must be right. Yet Abdu Murray’s title will have none of this high-pitched screaming when it comes to discussing the Christian worldview. He offers a calm and reasoned exploration of the faith. . . . What I find appealing about Murray’s book, especially when compared to other apologetics works, is that Murray brings enough personal experience and humility to the mix to make the book readable and palatable to those who may not yet have settled on the answers (or the questions).” (Todd Outcalt, *YouthWorker Journal*, November-December 2014)

“Grand Central Question is fantastic! I am so impressed at both the personal experience and depth of study that Abdu brings to the table. He takes the biggest life questions and provides insightful, provocative answers. I am thrilled and honored to endorse a book that will equip and

challenge so many people.” (Sean McDowell, speaker, educator and author of *Is God Just a Human Invention?*)

“An attorney by training, Abdu Murray keenly recognizes, as Jesus’ own ministry unveiled, that often there is a deeper question and motive behind a question, and ‘until the heart is open, the ears remain closed.’ He soberly reminds us that truth is costly—and sometimes it costs us dearly, as Abdu’s own journey reveals. Here you will find a wise and gentle voice who truly understands the doubter and skeptic. Abdu has wrestled with the claims of truth made by many worldviews and shows how the gospel is utterly unique and beautiful. I enthusiastically recommend his work.” (Ravi Zacharias, author and speaker)

“Grand Central Question is a very informed and well-written tour of important worldview topics. The book’s unique strength resides in its fruitful interaction with Islam. I highly recommend it.” (J. P. Moreland, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, and author of *Love Your God with All Your Mind*)

“If you want to jumpstart your quest in finding the answers to life’s deepest questions, read this book.” (Wayne Hagerman, *Living Light News*, July/August 2014)

“Outstanding! My friend Abdu Murray, an attorney and former Muslim, uses his razor-sharp intellect to analyze the big questions addressed by various worldviews—and explains why Christianity offers the most satisfying answers. Written with compassion and keen insight, this book

will both equip Christians and bring clarity to the spiritually curious.” (Lee Strobel, professor of Christian Thought, Houston Baptist University, and author of *The Case for Christ*)

“I like this book for two major reasons. In these pages, Abdu examines the major worldviews fairly and provides a fresh approach to showing how the Christian gospel best answers worldview questions pertaining to value, purpose, suffering and the greatness of God. Moreover, Abdu is a former practicing Muslim and attorney who has successfully field-tested in public forums the ideas presented in this book. So, readers are receiving content that is as sound and practical as it is interesting. An enjoyable read!” (Michael R. Licona, associate professor of theology, Houston Baptist University)

“Abdu Murray’s *Grand Central Question* is a practical, powerful guide to the explanatory value of the Christian faith, both intellectually and practically. This book contains helpful personal illustrations, very telling quotations, and real-life dialogues with Muslims, atheists and advocates of other worldviews that will make us wiser in proclaiming and defending the gospel of Christ.” (Paul Copan, professor and Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics, Palm Beach Atlantic University)

“I have long awaited a book such as this, which gives a sensitive but critical hearing to the major world and life views and which then also engages them in the light of the gospel. This is a very good book, and although there are others of this genre, it is quite unique, as it shows the skill of a well-honed mind—one which demonstrates both compassion

and critical thinking, and one which, above all, leads us to compare and contrast competing answers to essential questions. Abdu is uniquely qualified to offer this critique, with his background in law, his history with Islam, and his experience as a father, a husband and an honest seeker. This book will help many, and I highly recommend it, especially for those who need good reasons for any belief.” (Stuart McAllister, regional director of the Americas, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries)

“Applying several fundamental questions, Murray works his way through a number of philosophical and religious stances in an effort to ascertain the best basis for how we believe and behave. What grounds the atheist’s good behavior? Should pain have a purpose, and should grief be accompanied by hope, or are both simply meaningless struggles? Does holding that reality is only an illusion make life hurt any less? Still, Murray is at his best when examining Islam, a belief system which he embraced for most of his life. Citing the Qur’an frequently, he shows how contemporary Muslim responses differ from what the Qur’an itself teaches. The overall affect is that of a volume that clearly shows that Christianity is well grounded, unlike other systems.” (Gary R. Habermas, Distinguished Research Professor & Chair, Liberty University)

“Abdu Murray digs deeply into these three representatives of major worldviews of our day: atheism, pantheism and theism. This lawyer and former Muslim brings compassion, understanding and clarity to his analysis, comparing the answers of each view to the central message of Christianity.” (Light Magazine, April 2014)

“This is a thoughtful and clearly written book that will benefit anyone interested in apologetics, or anyone needing to see why Christianity is true.” (Gerald Wisz, CBA Retailers + Resources, April 2014)

“Everyone in the world knows something is wrong and in need of fixing. Abdu Murray’s stirring account of his conversion from Islam to Christianity, and his earnest engagement with people of other worldviews, will help you quickly identify the pressing questions each worldview is attempting to answer and see how Christ is the one true answer.” (Jeff Myers, president, Summit Ministries)

“I resonate with Abdu Murray’s personal story. We are both professional ‘case makers,’ and we came to Christianity from non-Christian backgrounds. Abdu’s powerful personal story and impressive professional skills inform his investigation into the most important questions of life. He effectively probes beneath the superficial descriptions to the foundational claims. If you’re ready for a thoughtful, engaging, investigative comparison between the claims of Christianity and competing worldviews, Grand Central Question will serve as a valuable resource.” (J. Warner Wallace, cold-case detective, Christian case maker and author of *Cold-Case Christianity*)

“If comfort is more important to you than truth, you’re going to be made uncomfortable by Grand Central Question. No matter what you believe about God, former Muslim Abdu Murray will show you convincingly that the answers to everyone’s deepest questions lead right to the foot of

Christ's cross. Thankfully, ultimate comfort is free to all those who will follow the truth where it leads!" (Frank Turek, coauthor of *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*)

Grand Central Question: Answering the Critical Concerns of the Major Worldviews, IVP Books, 2014, 261 pages

"A positive whoosh of fresh air." Adrian Plass

The
**Atheist
Who
Didn't
Exist**

*Or: the
Dreadful
Consequences
of Bad
Arguments*



ANDY BANNISTER

Foreword by Ravi Zacharias

The Atheist Who Didn't Exist (or: the Dreadful Consequences of Bad Arguments) by Andy Bannister (Monarch Books, 2015) is one of the best apologetics books about atheism I've read in a long time. It is by far the most humorous (more about that in a minute).

Dr. Andy Bannister is the Canadian Director for RZIM (Ravi Zacharias International Ministries) and speaks and teaches in Canada, Europe, UK, the United States, and other countries around the world. He holds a PhD in Islamic Studies “and enjoys mountaineering, juggling, and cats (although not simultaneously).”

Dr. Bannister was involved in youth ministry before studying theology and philosophy (focusing especially on Islam). He worked with churches and organizations from his base in Oxford, England before moving to Canada. Dr. Bannister is also an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths at Melbourne School of Theology. He is the author of *An Oral-Formulaic Study of the Qur'an* (Lexington Books, 2014), which reveals many of the ways the Qur'an was first composed.

As a former atheist who has discussed the evidence for the existence of God, the credibility of the Bible, and the historicity of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ with atheists for 45 years, I look forward to seeing how other Christian apologists present a defense to atheist arguments. We can all learn from each other.

God loves atheists. I know that to be true because God loves me. Even when I was denying His existence and cursing Him and His people, God loved me.

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:6-8

That’s how God looks at atheists and anyone else who is “ungodly” and a “sinner.” As Paul pointed out earlier in his letter to the Romans, “For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin” (Romans 3:9) and “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and save sinners (Luke 19:10), “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23) and “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)” (Ephesians 2:4-5). It is God’s great love for atheists that I read about clearly and compassionately in Andy Bannister’s new book, *The Atheist Who Didn’t Exist*.

I used to think that atheism had the best “arguments” from knowledge, logic and reason. I learned otherwise; which is why I became a theist, specifically a Christian theist. Arguments from atheism are bad .. really bad .. but the challenge is how to share that with an atheist in a way that will find both a hearing and serious consideration.

Christian apologists who work with atheists carry at least three evidential tools with them at all times: knowledge, logic and reason. Dr. Bannister adds a fourth tool in his new book: humor. The chapter titles are proof of his unique approach. Here are some examples –

- The Loch Ness Monster’s Moustache
- The Aardvark in the Artichokes
- Sven and the Art of Refrigerator Maintenance
- Humpty Dumpty and the Vegan
- The Peculiar Case of the Postmodern Penguin

Not exactly your typical Christian apologetics book about atheism. That’s just one of the things I love about the book. Andy Bannister combines humor with knowledge, reason and logic to present a powerful apologetic to atheism. Each one of the chapters addresses an argument that atheists use in their defense of atheism and their attack on theism. Here are some examples:

- The Loch Ness Monster's Moustache (or: The Terrible Consequences of Bad Arguments)
- The Aardvark in the Artichokes (or: Why Not All Gods are the Same)
- Sven and the Art of Refrigerator Maintenance (or: Why Religion Doesn't Poison Everything)
- Humpty Dumpty and the Vegan (or: Why We Really Do Need God to Be Good)
- The Peculiar Case of the Postmodern Penguin (or: Why Life Without God is Meaningless)

If you want to know more about how Dr. Bannister uses humor in each of the chapters to share with atheists, you'll need to buy the book — which is what I did and what I recommend you do as well. You can download [Chapter 1 for free here!](#)

Ways To Use The Book

- Read the book yourself to learn more about atheism and how to talk with atheists about God, the Bible and Jesus Christ ... read for personal knowledge, reason and logic and how to use the arguments in discussions with atheists and agnostics
- Read the book with a friend or small group of friends
- Use the book as a study guide for church youth group
- Use the book as a study guide with singles group

- Use the book as a study guide with university group (e.g. Ratio Christi, BCM, CRU, RUF)
- Use the book as a study guide for men's and women's groups
- Use the book as a study guide for parents' group
- Use the book as a study guide for grandparents' group
- Invite an atheist or agnostic friend to read the book with you to discuss both sides of the arguments included in the book

About the Book

(From theatheistwhodidntexist.com/)

In the last decade, atheism has leapt from obscurity to the front pages: producing best-selling books, making movies, and plastering adverts on the side of buses. There's an energy and a confidence to contemporary atheism: many people now assume that a godless scepticism is the default position, indeed the only position for anybody wishing to appear educated, contemporary and urbane. Atheism is hip, religion is boring.

Yet when one pokes at popular atheism, many of the arguments used to prop it up quickly unravel. *The Atheist Who Didn't Exist* is designed to expose some of the loose threads on the cardigan of atheism, tug a little, and see what happens. Blending humour with serious thought, Andy Bannister helps the reader question everything, assume nothing and, above all, recognise lazy scepticism and bad arguments. Be an atheist by all means: but do be a thought-through one.

Contents

Foreword by Ravi Zacharias

Chapters

- 1 The Loch Ness Monster's Moustache (or: The Terrible Consequences of Bad Arguments)
- 2 The Scandinavian Sceptic (or: Why Atheism Really is a Belief System)
- 3 The Aardvark in the Artichokes (or: Why Not All Gods are the Same)
- 4 The Santa Delusion (or: Why Faith in God Does Not Mean You're Insane)
- 5 Aim for That Haystack! (or: Why Psychological Arguments Against Religion Fail)
- 6 Sven and the Art of Refrigerator Maintenance (or: Why Religion Doesn't Poison Everything)
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- 9 The Peculiar Case of the Postmodern Penguin (or: Why Everybody Has Faith)
- 10 The Panini Poisoner of Pimlico (or: Why Everybody Has Faith)
- 11 The Reluctant Eunuch (or: Why We Really Can Know a Lot About Jesus)

Acknowledgements

Text Credits

Reviews & Endorsements

“This book is for you, whether you’re an atheist, a doubter, or a believer. In an age of overdone rhetoric that lacks substance, Andy Bannister has done what few writers on the topic of God have done: made it fun and fast-paced, yet fair and sincere. Andy has the rare ability to use humour to expose the faulty logic of bad arguments while at the same time being respectful to the people who might use those same arguments. You’ll laugh in these pages even as your intellect is stimulated and your thinking is challenged. *The Atheist Who Didn’t Exist* is a thoughtful book that will stimulate the humour and intelligence of the atheists who do exist. I wholeheartedly recommend it!” – Abdu Murray, speaker and author of *Grand Central Question: Answering the Critical Concerns of the Major Worldviews*

“The most enjoyable critique of popular atheism I have read. It is serious fun, by which I mean it offers deeply thoughtful responses to modern scepticism while regularly making you laugh.” – John Dickson, Macquarie University

“Andy Bannister’s book is a breath, a gust, a positive whoosh of fresh air. Made me laugh, made me think, made me cry. The words bounce across the page. A sane Christian! Whatever next?” – Adrian Plass, author and speaker

“Andy Bannister has written a clever book that patiently, humorously, and effectively dispatches popular neo-atheistic slogans and arguments. Nicely done!” –Paul Copan, Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics, Palm Beach Atlantic University

“This is a remarkable and timely book: intelligent, funny, and elegant.” – Michael Coren, author, broadcaster, and journalist

“Every atheist vs believer debate I’ve been to has made me want to gouge out my eyes with a spoon. Bannister’s book, however, is exactly what this sceptical believer needed.” – Drew Marshall, radio host

“This is the most enjoyable critique of popular atheism I have read. It is serious fun, by which I mean it somehow offers deeply thoughtful responses to modern scepticism while regularly making you laugh – often laughing at Andy’s true wit, sometimes at that ‘British drollery’! Oddly, for such an entertaining riposte to fashionable atheist arguments, the book is remarkably free of smugness and self-congratulation. I could – and will – give this book to my sceptical friends.” – Dr John Dickson, Founding Director of the Centre for Public Christianity, and Honorary Fellow of the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University

“In a brilliant work that is as humorous as it is damaging to atheist arguments, Bannister demonstrates the consequences of implementing New Atheist arguments in real life (that is, out of the realm of stuffy office speculations). His work is a wild ride that takes the reader from stories to

theory to end game. Writing with eloquence and imagination, he illustrates the supposed ‘safe ground’ of New Atheist thought as truly no ground at all.” – Professor Mary Jo Sharp, Houston Baptist University

“Andy Bannister provides a set of powerful and accessible arguments that can be used by ordinary people in responding to the tsunami of atheist sound bites flooding public discourse in the West. His tongue-in-cheek humour gives a certain lightness which does not in any way undermine the rigour and force of the book’s arguments. This is not a negative study – though the New Atheism is certainly taken to the cleaners – and it is also profoundly positive in presenting compelling arguments for the central claims of Christianity.” – Dr Peter Riddell, Professorial Research Associate, History, SOAS, University of London

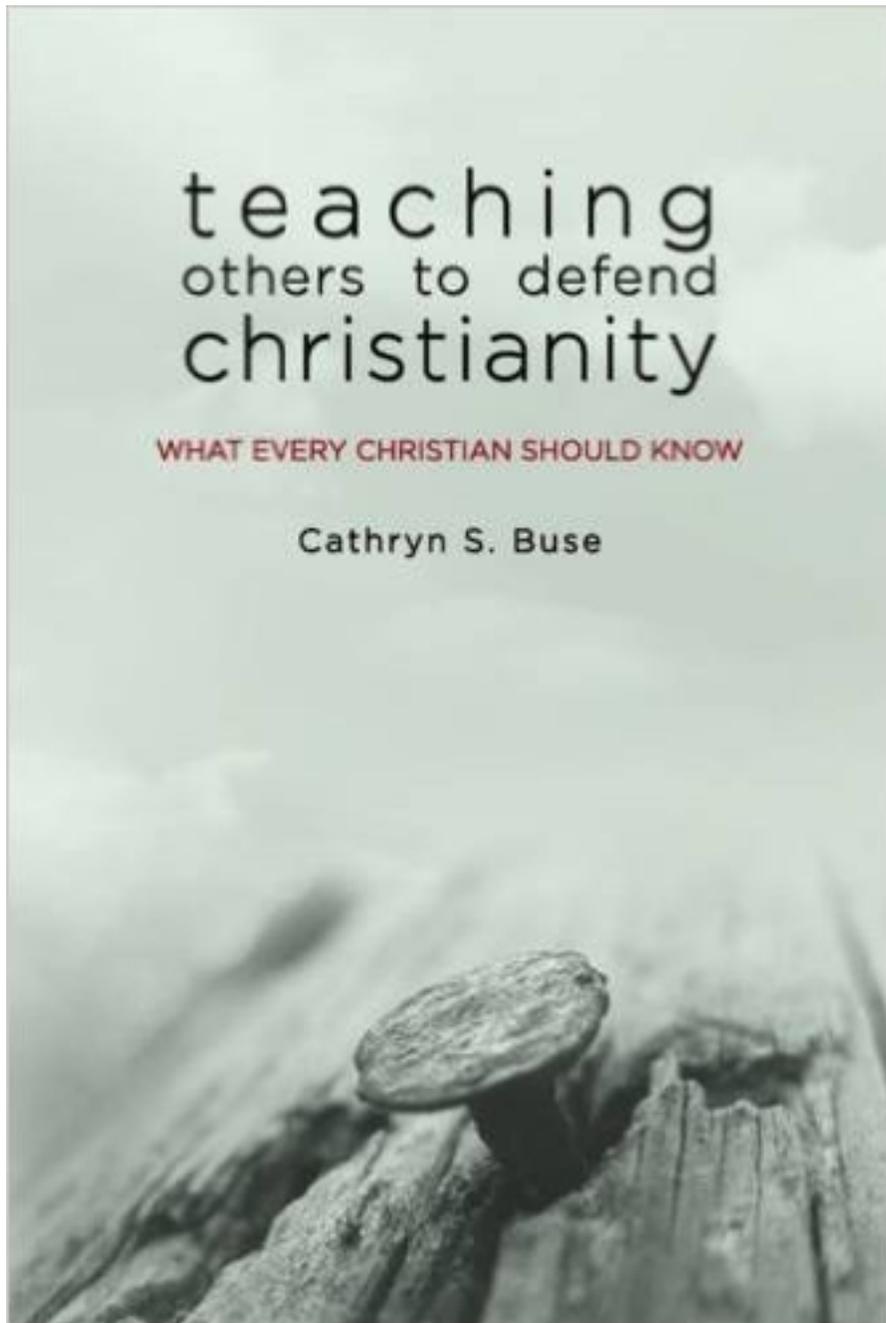
“A book that tackles heady things with humour and grace and in a way that ordinary people like myself can actually understand. Highly recommended; I read it twice!” – Jeff Allen, comedian

“This lively, witty, and engaging book provides a powerful and thoughtful critique of the New Atheism associated with Richard Dawkins and others. This is a lovely book, which draws deeply on high-quality philosophical, historical, and scientific thinking. A readable, thoughtful, and humorous challenge to those who hold New Atheist beliefs. Highly recommended!” – Professor Steve Walton, St Mary’s University, London

“It’s the ‘God Debate’, but not as you know it. In this conversational, well- researched and accessible volume, Andy Bannister offers an intelligent, provocative, and humorous engagement with the New Atheism. Andy asks big questions and challenges some dominant assumptions. Share and enjoy.” – Paul Woolley, Deputy Chief Executive, Bible Society

“I would especially highlight this book’s accessibility. Although it is well endowed with references, its populist, racy style may well appeal to readers who would be unlikely to engage with yet another ‘academic’ treatise on faith and secularism. On these grounds, I recommend it as an important addition to the debate on the most fundamental issue confronting any person, anywhere, at any time: are there good grounds for believing in a God or are believers such as Christians suffering delusional irrationality? This book may help each reader to come to a conclusion based on argumentation and evidence presented with satirical humour: a very valuable addition to the library!” – Baroness Caroline Cox, founder of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

[The Atheist Who Didn’t Exist \(or: The Terrible Consequences of Really Bad Arguments\)](#), Monarch Books, 2015, 240 pages



Teaching Others To Defend Christianity: What Every Christian Should Know by [Cathryn Buse](#) (Crosslink Publishing, 2016) is one of the best new apologetics books I've read. Cathryn has a Master of Science in Engineering (summa cum laude) from the University of Alabama Huntsville and spent almost a decade working on military weapons systems, commercial rocket manufacturing, and NASA design programs. Cathryn loves science and Christian apologetics and that comes through strongly in her new book.

Cathryn Buse is the Founder of [Defend The Faith Ministry](#) and cares deeply about the challenges Christians face in society.

“The church can no longer neglect its responsibility to prepare the believer to navigate through all the competing ideas and philosophies the world offers. Schools, media, and society are peddling the idea that science trumps religion, that the Bible is out of date, and that all religions are equal. The church must begin educating and preparing its congregation to counter that kind of ideology.” *Teaching Others To Defend Christianity*, p. xi

Cathryn saw the need to write *Teaching Others To Defend Christianity* from both her own experience and that of other Christians she knew.

“Despite the fact I had attended a solid, Bible-teaching church since my childhood, the foundational truths that address those concerns were never taught. The church had not prepared me to answer the types of questions the critical-thinking community had. As an engineer advocating for the case of Jesus, I saw how desperately the church needed to be teaching apologetics; yet, it was not. For years my parents and others like them sent their children to church expecting the church to prepare us for the battles against the world. But instead, we had been given superficial Christian platitudes with no depth of foundation. Many of my peers stumbled in their faith when faced with the questions the world threw at them in college. While I clung to my faith as truth, I knew I needed to understand why it was truth.” *Teaching Others To Defend Christianity*, x

Cathryn wrote it was for that reason she began to study apologetics.

Unique Teaching Tool

Teaching Others To Defend Christianity is unique in that Cathryn specifically designed the book as a teaching tool.

“The teacher can teach directly from this material to logically walk the class from an atheistic worldview, to evidence that there is a god, to the uniqueness of the Christian God, to the validity of the New Testament, and finally to the certainty that Jesus is the Son of God.” *Teaching Others To Defend Christianity*, xiii

This is the process that led me and many other atheists to become Christians, so we know it is a powerful way to help atheists come to faith in Christ and help Christians have confidence in their beliefs as followers of Christ. As I read Cathryn's book, I thought about what impact it might have had in my life as a teenager 50 years ago trying to discover the truth about life through logic and reason. I think it would have helped because no Christian I knew talked about those things, and those were the things that mattered to me.

Contents

Cathryn has segmented the book to be taught in six lessons answering three vital questions:

- Does God Exist?
- Which God Is it?
- Who Was Jesus?

The six lessons are:

- 1 The Cosmological Argument
- 2 The Teleological Argument
- 3 The Anthropological Argument
- 4 Religious Exclusivity
- 5 Validity of the New Testament
- 6 Validity of Jesus Christ

Reviews & Endorsements

(From back cover of Teaching Others To Defend Their Faith)

“Cathryn Buse effectively utilizes her engineering training and Biblical knowledge to provide a unique method for apologetics teaching. Instead of just giving apologetics responses, she uses a very analytical method to build upon each argument to guide the reader to the truth found in Jesus. As an engineer and scientist, I appreciate her ability to provide the intellectual view and substantiation of theological truths.” Jim Odom, former NASA engineer, Manager of the Hubble Telescope and US Space Station

“Cathryn Buse has produced a great gift for those who wish to teach apologetics. Anyone interested in teaching others how to defend their faith will welcome this comprehensive yet simply structured book. This study in our congregation created countless ‘I’ve never heard it explained so clearly’ responses. I’m grateful for the competence now instilled in many who want to defend the faith they profess.” Gary Formby, Pastor, Central United Methodist Church, Decatur, Alabama

“As a parent of a college student who is daily challenged to defend his beliefs, I appreciate Cathryn’s work. This study will strengthen a believer’s faith and lead an intellectual spiritual seeker to no other conclusion than God is real, Christ is His Son, and He is our only hope of salvation.” Dr. David Parmer, M.D.

“It’s not only important to know what you believe about the Christian faith, you better be ready to give a defense to your beliefs. Cathryn Buse’s study on the apologetics of the Christian faith equips the believer with the tools and weapons necessary to face the growing criticism of our generation. I can’t think of a more relevant study for God’s people at this present time.” Dr. Judson W. Hurt, Senior Pastor, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Columbus, MS

Teaching Others To Defend Christianity: What Every Christian Should Know, Crosslink Publishing, 2016, 194 pages

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