

Can I Say Something? Finding Our Voice Among Atheists and Universalists

Dr. Van Johnson



Bill Craig:

On Guard, 2010

Reasonable Faith, 3rd edition, 2008

www.ReasonableFaith.org

Richard Dawkins:
The God Delusion, 2006

Christopher Hitchens:
**God is Not Great, How Religion
Poisons Everything, 2008**

Sam Harris:
The End of Faith, 2004

Cosmological Argument

1. whatever begins to exist has a cause
2. the universe began to exist
3. the universe has a cause

If there is no immortality... then all
things are permitted

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, light-colored, swirling lines that form a complex, organic shape at the bottom of the page.

Look at how Jesus saw himself

The problem with universalism: Jesus
doesn't fit into a universal approach

[the following is adapted from John Stott,
Basic Christianity]

His Claims: he claimed to be God

Self-centered teaching

- John 14:6 - I am the way, the truth and the life
- John 3:6 - told people to believe in him & insisted on humility in others (Mark 10:43)

His Claims: he claimed to be God

Explicit statements about his deity

- John 10:30 - I and the Father are one
- John 8:19 - to know me is to know the Father
- John 14:9 - to see me is to see God

His Claims: he claimed to be God

Implicit statements about his deity

- he claimed to forgive sins
- Mark 2:1-12
- he claimed to give eternal life
- John 10:28
- he claimed he would judge the world -
Matthew 25:31-46

His Claims: he claimed to be God

His miraculous deeds

- John 20:30, 31 - signs of his deity

His Character: that NT claims he was sinless

What Christ thought

- John 8:29 - I always do what pleases him
- No record that he ever prayed for forgiveness

His Character: that NT claims he was sinless

What his friends said

- “without blemish or spot” (1 Peter 1:19)
- “in him is no sin” (1 John 3:5)

His Character: that NT claims he was sinless

What his enemies said

- false witnesses hired for his trial
- Pilate and Herod found him innocent
- Judas returned betrayal money, admitting Jesus was innocent (Matthew 27:4)

His Resurrection: consistent with his
claim to deity; proof of his uniqueness

The tomb was empty - body has never
been found

His Resurrection: consistent with his
claim to deity; proof of his uniqueness

The grave clothes were undisturbed
(John 20:6-7)



His Resurrection: consistent with his
claim to deity; proof of his uniqueness

The Lord was seen on numerous
occasions by various people
(1 Corinthians 15:4-6)

His Resurrection: consistent with his claim to deity; proof of his uniqueness

The disciples were changed

Compare the disciples hiding before the resurrection with those who were martyred for their faith.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is about
empowered witness

Luke 4:18-19

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:4,11,41

This presentation can be found on the
seminary website

www.mpseminary.com