

Title: The 5 Question Approach

Introduction: Where to begin: Evangelism Explosion's Two Diagnostic Questions. Question 1: Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven? Question 2: Suppose that you were to die tonight and stand before God and he were to say to you "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you say?

I. Question 1: Does God exist?

- A. Ro 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, [19] because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. [20] For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, [21] because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Professing to be wise, they became fools, [23] and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. [24] Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, [25] who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- B. Ps 14:1a The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*"
- C. ECC 1-2
- D. Atheism is just the wishful thinking of a wicked heart.
- E. Atheism ends in despair.

II. Question 2: How can I know God?

- A. General revelation: Ps 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.
- B. Special revelation:
 - 1. The written Word of God: 2 TIM 3:16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - 2. The Incarnate Word of Jesus:
 - a. Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*...
 - b. Joh 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.
- C. God can be known through His self-revelation.

III. Question 3: Where do I stand with God?

- A. Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; [13] Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit; The poison

of asps *is* under their lips; [14] Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness. [15] Their feet *are* swift to shed blood; [16] Destruction and misery *are* in their ways; [17] And the way of peace they have not known. [18] There is no fear of God before their eyes." ... [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- B. 1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us... [10] If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
- C. Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death...
- D. Outside of Christ you stand condemned before the living God as a sinner worthy of eternal death in hell.

IV. Question 4: How can I get right with God?

- A. Romans 6:23b ... the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- B. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- C. 2Corinthians 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. [21] For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- D. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- E. Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- F. We are reconciled to God by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

V. Question 5: How do I live for God?

- A. Ga 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- B. 1Jo 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
- C. Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. [42] And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- D. You live for God by living a life of faith in and loving obedience to God as enabled by the Holy Spirit, making diligent use of the means of grace in the context of the fellowship of God's people.