

Foreword by Dr. Georgia Purdom

# Quick Answers to Social Issues

ENVIRONMENT



SEX



EQUALITY



LIFE



BRYAN OSBORNE

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# Dedication

First and foremost, all glory goes to my God, Creator, and Savior. This book is evidence of His grace, divine intervention, and delight to use the foolish things of this world to shame the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Part of His immeasurable grace to me is constantly displayed in the gift of my beautiful bride. Marla, you are my greatest earthly blessing, my best friend, an incredible mother, and I'm eternally thankful that you are my partner in all things life and ministry (Proverbs 18:22)!

I also must confess that the image of my gorgeous children, Ian and Macie, was ever present in my mind as I wrote this book. Daddy loves you more than you can know and my greatest desire for you is to know, enjoy, and glorify Christ! I hope this book will help you do just that.

It's my prayer that God will use this book as a tool for His glory in equipping the saints to valiantly stand on God's Word, boldly defend their faith, and lovingly share the good news of Jesus Christ to a lost, confused, and dying world!

**Galatians 2:20**



## About the Author

Bryan Osborne is passionate about equipping believers with the truth of God's Word to boldly defend the faith and proclaim the gospel! As an expert in the use of exciting, apologetics-based evangelism and chronological Bible teaching, this former athlete connects with audiences at a real-world level while demonstrating real evidence confirms the truth of the Bible.

After graduating from Bryan College with a BA in Biblical Studies, and minors in Christian Education and Greek, he later received his Master's degree in Education from Lee University. For 13 years Bryan boldly and enthusiastically taught Bible history in a public school in Tennessee, and for over 20 years he has helped Christians in the local church to know and defend their faith.

He now speaks at conferences and in churches for Answers in Genesis. An in-demand speaker, he travels across the US and around the world encouraging, challenging, and equipping believers to stand on biblical authority. He also serves as a writer and curriculum specialist within the ministry.

Bryan's giftedness as a communicator, love of the gospel, and his passion for revealing biblical truth is both obvious and contagious. You will love his practical, engaging style that equips believers with the answers they need to stand fast on God's Word, champion the faith, and courageously declare the gospel of Jesus Christ!

# Foreword

As the chair of the Editorial Review Board here at Answers in Genesis, I lead a team that ensures everything Answers in Genesis produces is accurate, top-quality, and within our ministry's mission, purpose, and beliefs. I therefore had the pleasure of reading and reviewing Bryan's newest book, the volume you are holding today.

Our culture has been experiencing a dramatic social upheaval since the 1960s and the beginning of the sexual revolution. But it seems this upheaval has become even more violent and unrelenting within the last few years. What was unthinkable even a decade ago is now commonplace and splashed all over the news headlines (and if you haven't swallowed it hook, line, and sinker, you're considered an old-fashioned bigot not fit for society). And yet so many of these issues fly in the face of biblical truth. How should Christians think? How should we engage with the culture, effectively sharing biblical truth and pointing everyone towards the life-changing message of the gospel?

That's why *Quick Answers to Social Issues* is so valuable. In his easy-to-read style, Bryan lays a solid, proper foundation to begin the discussion. He rightly shows the true nature of the discussion (more of a war, really!) — it's a battle over worldviews and, ultimately, foundations. And there are only two options: man's word or God's Word. We either start with man's arbitrary and fallible opinions and ideas, or we start with the infallible Word of the infallible God. There is no other option! It's vital we understand this truth before we get into discussions about hot-button issues.





In this book, Bryan doesn't shy away from any of the "tough questions," even though many in our culture say he is not qualified or able to address them because of his gender or ethnic background. God's Word is sufficient for everyone to give an answer for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), regardless of whether they are male or female, an ethnic minority or majority, or any other factor. God's Word is our sword, able to be wielded by all believers, at all times, in all cultures. And he rightly applies God's Word to many of the most contentious issues facing our culture today.

Bryan deals with complex issues in a very straightforward way, not getting lost in complexities, details, or "rabbit trails" — in essence, he delivers exactly what he promises with the title *Quick Answers*. This book is a great exercise in how to think — once you understand foundational principles, you can apply them to the complexities, details, or other issues that may arise someday in the future.

After finishing this book, I know you will feel more equipped to address the pervasive lies of our culture. Take what you learn and apply it by talking to others, thinking critically about what you hear from the media and others, and teaching those around you to also think biblically.

—Dr. Georgia Purdom  
*Director of Educational Content, Speaker, and Author*

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# Introduction

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## “You fool”



“You fool,” said my friend and colleague with lighthearted laughter when I shared the idea of this book. I knew exactly what he meant. To publicly address any one of these issues today, even in much of the church, is to tread on dangerous waters — much less all the topics covered in this book! But these are the waters Christians swim in today, whether we like it or not.

No doubt, the subjects we’ll cover are “hot button” issues, and they are for a reason. **They’re part of a full-scale assault by the enemy, particularly in the West, aimed at demolishing biblical authority and Christian morality.** And the “father of lies” (John 8:44) doesn’t like his schemes interfered with. In recent generations, the devil’s been using the same old “Genesis 3 attack” in a unique way. When Satan said to Eve, “Did God really say?” the scheme was to get her to question, doubt, and ultimately reject what God plainly said. The method was extremely effective, and he’s been employing it ever since in various ways. Recently, ideas like evolution, big bang, and millions of years have been his way of saying, “Did God really say?” He uses these ideas to attack biblical history and to undercut biblical authority in order to discredit the Bible’s teaching on morality and salvation. The bottom line is, **if the Bible cannot be trusted when it speaks on history, why trust it when it speaks on morality, society, or eternity** (John 3:12)? If the Bible’s beginning can’t be trusted, why trust the middle or the end? Either all of the

### BIBLE REF.

Genesis 3:1-7

John 8:44

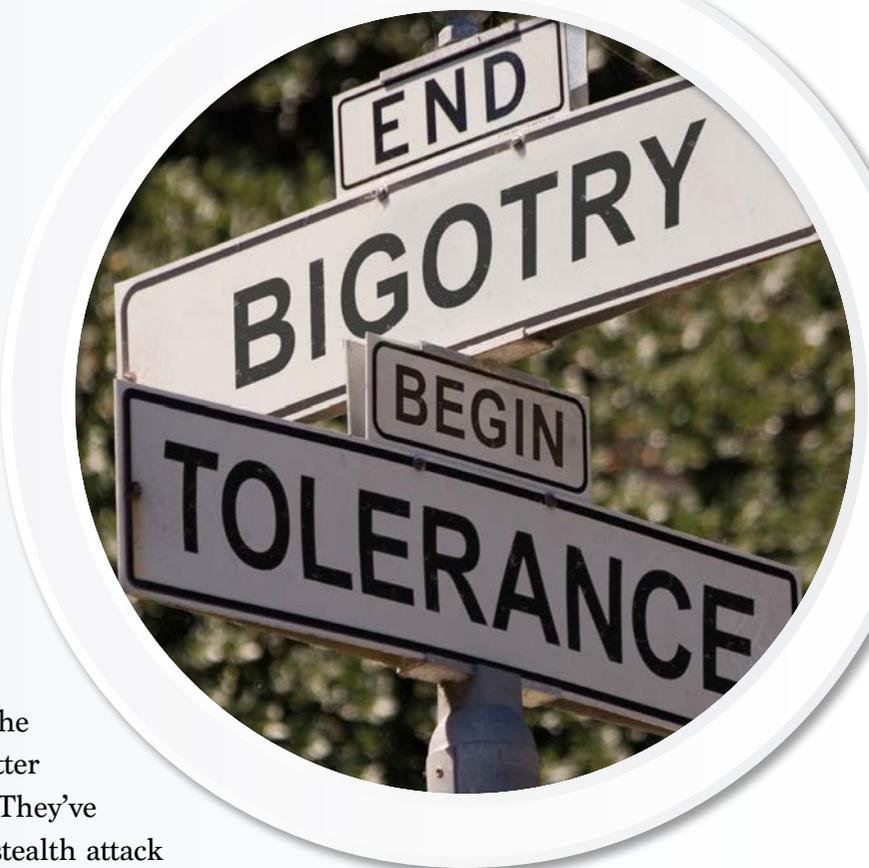
John 3:12

2 Corinthians 10:5

Philippians 1:27

2 Timothy 2:24-25

1 Peter 3:15



Bible is trustworthy and authoritative, or none of it is!

The collapse of the Christian worldview in **America** and throughout the West is happening to the utter shock of Christians. Why? They've been blind to the enemy's stealth attack on biblical history and authority that has led multiple generations to abandon God's Word as their foundation. With God's Word removed, people feel empowered to redefine history, reality, society, and morality. The issues addressed in this book are the "tip of the spear" for the enemy to radically transform a once exceedingly Christianized culture.

When our culture asks the questions dealt with in this book — and our kids parrot these questions and ideas heard from schools, libraries, movies, books, music, YouTube, social media, etc. — it must be remembered they're not innocent, unintentional questions. They stem fundamentally from **a rejection of biblical authority** and have the agenda of remaking the culture into the enemy's image. With that in mind, it's imperative that Christians be ready to give answers to today's questions (1 Peter 3:15)! And these answers must be rooted in the Bible because, ultimately, this is a foundational battle of authority between the word of men and the Word of God.

Thus the passion and purpose of this book — to equip Christians with clear, concise biblical answers to effectively stand on God's Word and boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ on the frontlines of today's battle!



## Only two?



It is often claimed that there are so many different religions, with diverse views, that it's impossible to know who's right. Taken a step further, the claim is "nobody is right." This philosophy permeates our culture, has affected the thinking of many Christians, and has a couple of major problems.

One, if someone claims that nobody is right, are they right about nobody being right? **If they are right that nobody is right, then they — being somebody — are wrong about being right. How can that be right?** The

very idea is fundamentally self-refuting.

Here's the second major problem. **Foundationally, there are actually only two religions. Just two? Just two. They are God's and man's.** And these two fundamental religions could not be more different. God's religion is articulated in the tenets of Christianity rightly reasoned from the Bible, the divine revelation of the Creator God Himself. The religion of man is expressed in seemingly endless ways, with the central dogma being that man can determine truth apart from God.

Either there is a Creator God who made everything, who has revealed Himself to us in a clear way and holds everyone accountable to His revelation, or people are just rearranged pond scum who create gods in their own image to suit themselves and define truth however they see fit. In man's religion, truth is relative and manipulated by individuals. In God's religion, there is only one truth — His. God is the absolute, eternal, unchanging cornerstone of all truth that rightly defines all of reality.

**BIBLE REF.**  
Genesis 3:5  
I Chronicles 29:11-13  
Psalm 119:89  
Matthew 7:24-27  
Luke 16:17  
I Thessalonians 2:13



**And no matter the issue in question — origins, morality, sexuality, significance of existence, salvation, future reality, etc. — how a person answers will ultimately come down to one of the only two religions. Do you trust the Word of God or words of men?** Do you put your hope in the hands of broken, sinful, finite people (which includes yourself and your own thinking) who don't know everything, who haven't always existed, who on their own have no rationality for truth, reason, morality, or love? Or do you trust the revelation of the living God — the words of the One who is eternal, infinite, all-knowing, all-powerful, unchanging, perfect, who cannot lie, and is the very origin of love, truth, knowledge, reason, goodness, and existence?

It is from one of these two foundations that everyone must build their thinking and worldview. Either God's Word is esteemed as the highest authority and rightly submitted to in every area or is rejected and all that is left are the diverse, contradictory ideas of men, which an individual must use to create a worldview with a pseudo-authority. This actually makes the individual the ultimate authority; he becomes his own god. As will be discussed in more detail in the next chapter, there is no such thing as neutrality. Either trust God or "you will be like god" (Genesis 3:5).



## The neutrality myth



One of the most pervasive cultural myths today is that people can be and should be neutral. The narrative of neutrality goes hand in hand with the current secular redefining of tolerance and belief in relativism. In essence, **the push for neutrality is based on the false assumptions of no absolute truth, beliefs don't assume an authority, and people can be unbiased.**

Of course, none of these things are true. The best way to expose the naïve notion of neutrality is by going to the foundation. As discussed previously, there are only two fundamental religions, only two foundational worldviews. One is established on God's Word and the other on man's. Both presume an authority; it's literally impossible not to. Someone either trusts God's Word as the ultimate authority and builds their thinking, their worldview, from there, or they reject the Bible as absolute and instead form their opinions, their worldview, from the ideas of men. Everyone makes a choice, whether they realize it or not, to submit and live according to one or the other.

This is why the Bible says, "The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God" (Romans 8:7; NASB) and "friendship with the world is hostility toward God" (James 4:4; NASB). We realize Jesus meant what He said in Matthew 12:30 (NASB), "He who is **not with Me is against Me**; and he who does **not gather with Me scatters.**" The Bible is unequivocal — no one can be neutral. Therefore, the claim that neutrality is possible is anti-biblical

### BIBLE REF.

Jeremiah 23:29

Matthew 12:30

Romans 8:7

2 Timothy 3:16

James 4:4

Hebrews 4:12

2 Peter 1:20-21

and consequently not neutral.

It must be recognized that no matter the issue, from origins to abortion, it's ultimately a battle of authority. Either God's Word or man's is preeminent. So, how should a Christian respond when debating whatever subject and they're asked to abandon the Bible in favor of "neutral ground"? Absolutely not! Why?

Because there is no "neutral ground"! Neutrality is biblically impossible. Every issue comes down to whose word is supreme. **If the believer agrees that the Bible is not needed for truth on any issue, by default they've conceded that man's word is the ultimate authority! "Neutral ground" is actually man's ground since it opposes biblical authority.**

Here's a helpful analogy based on the biblical portrayal of God's Word as a sword. Imagine you're a knight, centuries ago, facing down an opposing knight. As you both draw your swords to commence battle, the opposing knight says, "I don't believe in your sword, get rid of it!" You could concede, discard your sword, and get skewered. Or a better option — use your sword and its reality will become evident!

Two things to remember when someone asks you to be neutral — they're not, and you can't be. And you shouldn't pretend to be. The Bible is our sword, our authority, and every conflict we face today is a battle over authority. **You cannot defend biblical authority by abandoning biblical authority!** Don't fall for the lie of neutrality — use your sword to the glory of God!





## Be “tolerant” or else



Tolerance is a single word encompassing the central creed of today’s enlightened secular culture. In a society where everyone creates their own truth and autonomy paraded through personal expression is worshipped, intolerance is the supreme evil.

To more fully understand this sacred secular doctrine, the popular contemporary understanding of tolerance must be contrasted to its traditional definition. Its classical meaning, found in most dictionaries, is essentially the practice of tolerating the existence of ideas or behaviors that one disagrees with. For those swept up in today’s progressive indoctrination, this definition doesn’t go far enough, nor is “tolerance” a two-way street.

**The current secular manifestation of tolerance demands so much more than a willingness to accept the existence of ideas contrary to one’s own. One must not only endure, but also *celebrate* contrary ideas and *empower* those who hold them.** But this superficially assumes relativism — no absolutes — and the equivalence of various, contradicting truth claims. The secularist is blindly trusting that belief in absolute truth is absolutely wrong, a declaration ironically impossible within their worldview.

In theory, if they believed their own definition of tolerance, they would celebrate, encourage, and empower those who hold beliefs different than their own. As previously mentioned, the secularist’s version of tolerance isn’t a two-way street. It’s only their ideas that require celebratory approval. They have

**BIBLE REF.**  
 Genesis 3  
 2 Chronicles 36:16  
 Proverbs 28:4  
 Matthew 10:32  
 Romans 1:18-32  
 Ephesians 5:11  
 1 John 4:15

no desire or inclination to reciprocate this practice to any other view. There's an outright refusal by secularists to consistently apply and practice their own ultimate standard of tolerance.

**Scaling the heights of hypocrisy, the secularist arbitrarily and strategically redefines tolerance, requires agreement, demands compliance, and then is bigotedly intolerant — by the old or new definition — toward anyone with an opposing view.** Anyone who dares defy the progressive mantra is labeled hateful, bigoted, and intolerant.

The secularists' "altar call" proclaims that if you don't already hold to today's "open-minded" values, now's the time to "repent and believe" — or else. **You will comply or you won't be tolerated. Ironically, those who champion tolerance as supreme unveil themselves as fantastically intolerant.**

The secularist only "**superficially** assumes...no absolutes." He does believe in absolutes in his heart of hearts, just not God's. **He actually elevates his own thoughts and beliefs to the level of absolute truth.** That's why the secularist is so bigoted and intolerant toward those who disagree. You either agree with what is "unequivocally right" or suffer the fate of all nonbelievers. In his mind, whether he recognizes it or not, his ideas — his "word" — has become the standard. This revelation exposes the foundational battle that traces its roots all the way back to Genesis 3. Either God's the authority in your life or you are. No one can serve two masters; both won't be tolerated.

In reality, Christianity is supremely tolerant. How? All are sinners who need a Savior, and **anyone** who repents and trusts in Christ alone will be saved. The door is open to all. It doesn't get more tolerant than that.





## The Genesis connection



“What do today’s social issues have to do with Genesis?” Along with the authority issue addressed earlier, the history of Genesis 1–11 is literally the foundation for every biblical doctrine either directly or indirectly. If you destroy the foundation, the doctrines resting on that foundation collapse.

In Genesis, we see the all-powerful Creator make a perfect creation with no death, disease, or bloodshed.

As the crowning jewel of His creation, God makes man, male and female, in His image. **This history** explains the reality of only **two genders**. Also, it’s why every person — no matter their age, appearance, location, ability, disability — has inherent and indelible value and dignity. Because all people descend from those first two image bearers, **every person reflects the *Imago Dei*** (Latin meaning “image of God”) from womb to tomb. Thus, Christians can authoritatively say that **abortion, euthanasia, discrimination, abuse, etc., are wrong**.

**Genesis 2** recounts the creation and definition of **marriage**, the biblical institution that’s foundational to society. This is how we know that marriage is between one man and one woman for life. **God made marriage, and He defines what it is.**

In the history of Genesis 3, Adam sinned, bringing death and suffering into this world just as God warned. It’s clear from Genesis to Revelation that man’s sin brought death, the enemy, into God’s perfect creation. Because of sin, all of creation was corrupted (Romans 8:22). **This history explains the beauty in the world, remnants of God’s original flawless creation, and**

### BIBLE REF.

Genesis 1–11

Genesis 2

Romans 5:12–17

Romans 8:22

I Corinthians 15:21–22



**the ugly reality of death, suffering, brokenness and disease, all resulting from the fall.<sup>1</sup>**

Noah's Flood in Genesis 6–9 explains the majority of the fossil record, and the event of the Tower of Babel, Genesis 10–11, explains the origins of languages and people groups. This history testifies to the truth that all people trace their family tree back to Adam and Eve. So, biologically and biblically speaking, there is only one race, the human race! Every human is equally made in God's image; therefore, racism is nonsense! And since every person descends from the first Adam who fell into sin, everyone is born a sinner. This inherited sin nature explains why **all** people have thoughts, desires, and proclivities that are out of step with God's original design and are in need of saving through the Last Adam, Jesus Christ.

The main point here is to recognize that **every biblical doctrine that must be used to combat the secular dogma of this age is rooted in Genesis.**

<sup>1</sup> Attempting to put millions of years into the Bible always puts death before sin. And death before sin rejects the clear history of Scripture and is theologically impossible. You see, if there is death before sin, then death is not the payment for sin. And if death is not the payment for sin, then Jesus' death cannot pay our sin debt — one of many reasons the humanistic idea of millions of years is incompatible with the Bible.



## How can you believe the Bible?



Many argue that “The Bible cannot be trusted because it’s written by men!” Does that mean anything said or written by “men” is untrustworthy? What about textbooks used in classrooms worldwide? Can the words of the one making the argument be trusted because they’re also a person?

More importantly, **the Bible’s clear that God is the ultimate author of Scripture** (1 Thessalonians 2:13). All of Scripture is “God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16; NIV); the human authors wrote as they were “moved” by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

The Bible is trustworthy in all that it says because it’s the revelation of the one true, living God – the God who cannot lie, is all-knowing, all-powerful, everywhere existing, infinite, eternal, unchanging, good, and perfect.

If one is willing to look, confirmations of this eternal truth are everywhere. Historically, no other history is close to the veracity of the Bible’s history. **The Bible has more manuscripts written closer to the original events than any other trusted historical record.** And over **20,000** archaeological discoveries have confirmed biblical history.

The Bible is extraordinarily unique, written over 1,500 years, on three different continents, in multiple languages, by 40-plus authors from remarkably diverse backgrounds. **The fact that the Bible is utterly cohesive and focused on the singular theme of Christ from beginning to end is tremendous testimony of its supernatural nature.**

### BIBLE REF.

- 2 Samuel 22:31
- Psalm 12:6
- Proverbs 30:5
- Matthew 7:24–27
- Ephesians 6:17
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 2 Peter 1:21

It's often asserted that science has disproved the Bible. Answers in Genesis has thousands of resources demonstrating the exact opposite! **Real science repeatedly confirms the Bible** and constantly unveils the **faulty worldview bias leading secular scientists to erroneous conclusions about unseen history**. My previous book, *Quick Answers to Tough Questions*, concisely deals with many of these issues.<sup>1</sup>

Fulfilled prophecy puts the Bible in a supernatural league all its own. The Bible contains hundreds of fulfilled prophecies of future events, often hundreds of years before they occur, with 100% accuracy, which demands divinity.

**A forceful demonstration of the Bible's unrivaled truthfulness is that only the biblical worldview can self-consistently make sense of all reality without contradicting itself.** The attributes and actions of the

biblical God alone provide the only rational reason

for the existence of the material world and

non-material things like the laws of logic,

laws of nature, and absolute morality

— things that cannot be seen, tasted,

or touched but are absolutely real.

These immaterial realities must

be true for us to live, think, and

function but make no sense

without the biblical God and

humans made in His image.

Without the biblical worldview

being true, you wouldn't be

able to coherently ask the

initial question! **Since only the**

**Bible can consistently explain**

**knowledge, logic, truth, and**

**our ability to use them, the very**

**ability to ask is confirmation of the**

**exclusivity of biblical truth!**<sup>2</sup>



1 There are also numerous articles, videos, and resources on our website, [answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org), that powerfully demonstrate the scientific confirmation of biblical history.

2 For more on this, see Jason Lisle's book, *The Ultimate Proof of Creation* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2009).