

Our ten reasons for being a Christian

@ Wednesday morning

Reason 1 ~ Because the Claims of Christ are true and reasonable ~ Acts 26:24-29

This is the thrust of most apologetics, to demonstrate that Christianity is true and reasonable. Reason 1 is about showing the faith to be true and uses classical arguments for the existence of God and for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

@ Wednesday Afternoon

Reason 2 ~ Because Jesus sought me and I needed saving. ~ Luke 19:1-10

This is the divine initiative. Salvation is not my doing but God's. This is a critical point to make. Reason 2 deals with God's sovereignty and assurance of salvation. As John Newton said, "Two things I know. I am a great sinner and Christ is a great savior." God is sometimes depicted as the "Hound of Heaven." There is a balance to Reason 2 in Reason 10.

Reason 3 ~ Because the Holy Spirit testifies truth to my spirit ~ Romans 8:18-19

This is the irrefutable witness and deals with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all true Christians. This is about knowing I'm a Christian, rather than showing I'm a Christian. Reason 3 is sometimes called the "defeater defeater" because the witness of the Holy Spirit will defeat any atheist argument.

@ Thursday Morning

Reason 4 ~ Because the Human Condition is best reflected as a shattered Image of God ~ Genesis 1:24-31

This makes sense of the human condition. Who are we as human beings? Genesis 1 tells us we were made in God's image. Genesis 3 tells us we are fallen creatures. Understanding this human genesis explains so much else. Reason 4 tells that all people deserve respect as image bearers, but that none can be glorified. There is a floor below which no human can fall and a ceiling above which no human can rise.

Reason 5 ~ Because without God the world is absurd ~ Judges 21:25 / Ecclesiastes

This is sometimes called "cultural apologetics" and was made popular by Francis Schaefer. Is there any point to life in a post-theistic universe? Without God and immortality there is no purpose, meaning, or value. This is the existentialist point of view. Reason 5 addresses the human predicament that occurs when all is emptiness and everyone does what is right in their own eyes.

@ Thursday Afternoon

Reason 6 ~ Because the Cross of Christ demonstrates ultimate love ~ Romans 5:1-8

This addresses the highest virtue which is sacrificial love and its ultimate expression in the Cross of Christ. The cross is the most common Christian symbol signifying God's love for us. Reason 6 reminds us that in most religions people sacrifice to their gods. In our faith, God sacrificed for me.

Reason 7 ~ Because human joy is best discovered as a disciple of Christ ~ John 15:11

This addresses the need in every heart for joy. What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Contrary to many, we were designed to enjoy life. Reason 7 is about joy and how that occurs in this life and how it can occur forever when you are in right relationship with God.

Reason 8 ~ Because human freedom is best discovered as a disciple of Christ ~ John 8:30-33

This addresses a need in every human heart to be free. True freedom is making choices that align with purpose, that is making godly choices. Freedom to do whatever *you* want makes *you* a slave to your sin. Reason 8 reminds us that when the Son makes you free, you are free indeed.

@ Friday morning

Reason 9 ~ Because I have nowhere else to go ~ John 6:68-69

This addresses other possible faiths and philosophies. Ravi Zacharias teaches that the four big questions in life are these: Where did I come from? (Origin) Where am I going? (Destiny) How should I live? (Morality) Why am I here? (Meaning). Christianity, as a worldview, is the only faith that provides a coherent and satisfactory answer to all four.

Reason 10 ~ Because Jesus invited me and I accepted ~ Matthew 11:28

This is a balance to Reason 2. We must accept the invitation of Christ. He stands at the door and knocks, but only I can open. This is the evangelical opportunity for everyone in the audience to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Nearly every Christian came to Christ at the witness of another person whether parent, friend, preacher, or author. It is our privilege of introduce others to our Lord and His grace to accept them as His followers.

~ Reason 1 ~

I am a Christian because the Claims of Christ are true and reasonable

Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. [Acts 26:25]

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. [Psalm 19:13]*

1. Who is your audience? Will you witness of the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?

- If the person is an atheist, non-theist, or agnostic, witness the Father.
Show God exists through argument and evidence.
- If the person is a theist, but not Christian (Muslim, Jewish), witness the Son.
Show the Resurrection of Jesus Christ through argument and evidence.
- If the person is a Christian, but of a different communion (Catholic, Pentecostal, etc.) witness the Holy Spirit. This is an “in house” discussion. If they honor Scripture,
Persuade through Scripture, the inspired words of the Holy Spirit.

2. Four arguments for the existence of God.

(Taken from *Reasonable Faith*, by William Lane Craig)

a. The Leibnizian Cosmological Argument

- Anything that exists has an explanation of its existence, either in necessity or contingency.
- If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is God.
- The universe exists.
- Therefore, the universe has an explanation of its existence.
- Therefore, the explanation of the existence of the universe is God.



b. The Kalam Cosmological Argument

- Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
- The universe began to exist.
- Therefore, the universe has a cause.



c. The Fine-Tuning Teleological Argument

- The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design.
- It is not due to physical necessity or chance.
- Therefore, it is due to design.



d. The Moral Argument

- If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
- Objective moral values and duties do exist.
- Therefore, God exists.



3. The Problem of Historical Knowledge and the Problem of Miracles

(At this point we conclude that argument and evidence point to the existence of God.)

- Are the 27 books of the New Testament historically reliable?
- How did the “Jesus of History” descend into the “Christ of Faith”?
Biblical Jesus > non-miraculous Jesus > mythical Jesus > non-existent Jesus
- A miracle may be defined as “a naturally impossible event”. Can miracles happen?

Student Notes

4. The Self-understanding of Jesus

- a. The Messiah (the Christ) – Prophet, Priest, King
- b. The Son of God – In a unique and intimate way
- c. The Son of Man – A Divine Title / Fulfillment of prophecy
- d. The “I am” saying from the Gospel of John

5. The Resurrection of Jesus

(Three great facts that support the hypotheses that Jesus rose from the dead)

1. The fact of Jesus’ empty tomb
2. The fact of postmortem appearances
3. The fact of the origin of the Christian Faith

6. The outline of the original gospel, I Corinthians 15:3-7:

- For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
- that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
- and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.
- After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.
- Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,
If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. [I Corinthians 15:17]

1. There are two books in Psalm 19

- ~ in the book of creation, God is revealed
- ~ book of Scripture, the LORD revealed

2. Coherent with the reality of Creation. Romans 1:18-20

- ~ A four-year-old looks at the universe
- ~ An eight-year-old plays in the garden

3. Corresponds with History. Acts 26:22

- ~ Reliable text. Consistent message. Teaching of Jesus, archeology
- ~ Moses and the prophets. The claims of Christ.
- ~ Resurrection. John 8:51 (a Jewish lady gives a ten-year-old a Bible)

4. Connects with self. Romans 7:18b

- ~ A longing for truth and meaning and awareness of dysfunction.
- ~ A fourteen-year-old meets a Preacher and the Spirit of Jesus.

Student Notes

~ Reason 2 ~

**I am a Christian because
Jesus sought me and I needed saving.**

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. [Luke 19:10]

1. Maori moment

2. Story of Zacchaeus.

His context. Tax collector in Roman Empire, Rich, Lived in Jericho, Son of Abraham

His situation. Unpopular not only because of profession but he was a cheat and perceived as a traitor. Zacchaeus was self-aware, Ready for change, Persistent and inquisitive.

Able to overcome barriers.

His response. He welcomes Jesus and offers hospitality
(which would make Jesus ritually unclean)

We don't know what Jesus said initially but Zacchaeus responded wholeheartedly.

He finds Jesus and his message irresistible.

He makes generous restitution. Ex.22:3b, Lev.6:1-7, Num. 5:5-8

He stays in his home town to be a witness

His outcome Salvation, an understanding of scope of gospel, witness with evidence of transformation. Potential for future church in Jericho.

(As with Samaritan woman at Sychar)

The strongest apologetic is love.

Jesus loved enough to pursue Zacchaeus and risk his own reputation

Zacchaeus loved enough to respond joyfully and extravagantly and to stay at home.

3. Parallels in Paul.

4. How does this affect us?

The Story of the Hound of Heaven

Determinism vs. Free Will

Calvinism vs. Arminianism

Calvin's T-U-L-I-P

Total Depravity (also known as Total Inability and Original Sin)

Unconditional Election

Limited Atonement (also known as Particular Atonement)

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of the Saints (also known as Once Saved Always Saved)

Student Notes

~ Reason 3 ~

**I am a Christian because
the Holy Spirit testifies truth to my spirit**

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. [Romans 8:16]
And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. [Romans 8:9b]*

*When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth
who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. [John 15:26]*

*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away,
the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. [John 16:7]*

1. SHOWING vs. KNOWING

There are two questions to consider when asked, “Is Christianity true?”

The first question is “how can I show it” (with argument and evidence)?

The second it “how can I know it” (in addition to argument and evidence)?

2. The Magisterial role and the Ministerial role. Reason is a minister to the Christian faith. It can demonstrate to myself and to others that Christianity is true. The Holy Spirit holds the magisterial role. A person knows Christianity is true because the Holy Spirit tells him. Majesty trumps Ministry.

3. The primary way that I know that I am a Christian – a child of God – is through the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. We understand the great truths of the gospel through the instigation of the Holy Spirit.

4. The Spirit’s witness is self-authenticating for he who really has it. Spirit-filled Christians can know immediately that their claims to the Spirit’s witness is true despite the false claims made by persons adhering to other religions.

5. The “Defeater Defeater”. There may come a time when the truth of the Christian faith looks implausible. Maybe you are ridiculed. Maybe a celebrity atheist assures you that there is no God, and presents convincing arguments. Maybe Christian morality looks crazy in the sex-crazed world. You may feel defeated. *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children* and the defeater is defeated.

How can you encourage the Holy Spirit to testify to your own spirit!

1. Scripture Reading

2. Prayer

3. Worship

4. Spiritual Disciplines

Student Notes

~ Reason 4 ~

**I am a Christian because
the Human Condition is best reflected as a shattered Image of God**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [Genesis 1:27]

So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. [Genesis 3:23]

What is it to be human? Big brain? Language? Upright? Toolmaker? Social being?

CREATED HUMANITY

1. Male and female made in Gods likeness- the image of the Triune God.
2. Attributes not physical John 4:24 but Bible includes anthropomorphic references
3. We are: Rational. Intelligence, memory, communication
 Emotional. God feels.
 Volitional. Autonomy, purpose,
 Moral. Sense of right and wrong. Justice.
 Spiritual. Relational, creative.

Attributes of God not included. Omniscience omnipotent, omnipresent (non-communicative attributes)

Dominion/Stewardship is related to Image but more of a role and responsibility.

FALLEN HUMANITY

Total in effect but not in extent. Sin (anti -God force) affects every aspect of personhood and relationships.

- Rational. Godless, self-focused, view of personhood inflated or diminished, values and dignity undermined
- Emotional. Out of control, unrighteousness anger, guilt and shame.
- Volitional. Poor choices, temptation, purposelessness.
- Moral. Right and wrong blurred, human nature corrupted, justice compromised.
- Spiritual. Alienated from God, disrupted relationship, exploitation of others and environment, death

To what extent is created order affected? Romans 8. Animals, land management, disease, human institutions, natural disasters? NB The Fall is not sole origin of dysfunction. Evil existed before the Fall.

NEW HUMANITY. 2 Cor.3:18

What is “original sin?” Are human beings born good, bad, or a blank slate?

How does this statement reflect Genesis one/two and Genesis three?

“These, then, are the two points I wanted to make. First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.” [C.S. Lewis]

How do the founding documents of the USA acknowledge both Genesis 1&2 and Genesis 3?

Declaration of Independence ~ “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

U.S. Constitution ~ Checks and balances: three branches of government,
three levels of jurisdiction, [Two political parties]



Student Notes

~ Reason 5 ~

**I am a Christian because
without God the world is absurd**

In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes. [Judges 21:25]

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun. [Ecclesiastes 2:10-11]

1. God and immortality are two necessities to have a meaningful existence.

Without God there is no right and wrong. All things are permissible.

Without immortality there is no compelling reason to do what is right.

2. The descent from theism to post-modernism.

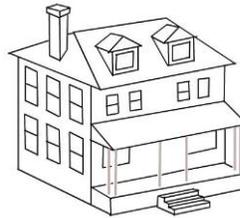
Christian theism > deism > naturalism / materialism / atheism > nihilism > existentialism > post-modernism

4. The two-story universe of Francis Schaeffer.

Bottom floor is the material universe

Second floor is the transcendent universe:

Meaning, significance, value, purpose



5. Life without God has no ultimate meaning.

We are no different than the beasts. On the micro scale, my petty life has no meaning. On the cosmic scale, the universe itself is futile.

6. Life without God has no ultimate value.

What about love and brotherhood? Without God, why are these to be preferred above hate and selfishness? Human beings cannot live without a code that treats others with dignity and value. Without God, we make up the rules. Will replaces love as the categorical imperative (as it did for Nietzsche). Without eternal life why would we be responsible for action on earth?

7. Life without God has no ultimate purpose.

How could there be purpose in a mindless universe? What appears to be purpose is an illusion, just our petty plans that end with our deaths. When all the lights in the universe go black, what is the purpose of anything?

What is the modern human predicament?

Why is “humanism” NOT a way out of the human predicament? [Man is the measure of all things]

Why is materialism self-defeating?

Student Notes

~ Reason 6 ~

**I am a Christian because
the Cross of Christ demonstrates ultimate love**

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [Romans 5:6-18]



1. The ultimate virtue is LOVE.
[1 Corinthians 13, 1 John 4:16]

2. The ultimate expression of this virtue lies in the CROSS of Christ.
[John 15:13]

3. When Catholic missionaries first witnessed in China, the mother and child made sense, the cross was ridiculous. “Christianity is the only major religion to have as central event the humiliation of its God.”

4. In order for the sacrifice of Christ to make sense, you must understand this about yourself. “My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior.” [John Newton]

5. Story of the Christian anthropologist. Sacrifice is not alien to the Christian heart.

6. Story of a Mother’s Day conversation; Three votes for love and two for sacrifice.

7. John chapter 13. Emphasis on Agape Love:

Verse 1. Jesus loved them to the ultimate.

Verses 4 to 11. Foot washing: An example/illustration of love.

Verse 34 to 35. A new way to love: the “platinum rule”

Then finally, the passion of Christ, the living out of His own example.

8. What kind of God do you worship?

Moloch [demanding]

Zeus [capricious]

Buddha [ascetic]

Krishna [earthy]

The Lord God [self-sacrificial] “For God so loved ... He gave himself”

How does the cross of Christ lend perspective to “problem of suffering”?

What does Philippians 2:6-11, teach us about Christ? About humility?

How does the doctrine of the Trinity suggest the eternity of God?

Student Notes

~ Reason 7 ~

I am a Christian because

human joy is best discovered as a disciple of Christ

*John 15:11 I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be made full.*

1. The human heart is designed to live in Joy. This is because our Father designed us to be in fellowship with Him. The Westminster Catechism's first question and answer is:
Q. What is the chief end of man?
A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to **enjoy him** forever.
2. When Christians experience their Father's glory they find Joy. (Psm 16:11, Rev 4:11, 5:11-13, Php 4:4, 1 Pet 1:8, Rom 15:13). Even creation finds joy in Gods glory. (Job 38:7, Psm 96:12)
3. But many people outside the church do not think that Christians are joyful people. They don't see Christian smiling and laughing. They hear us telling them that God is against all the things that make the smile and laugh. Why is this? Is everything that makes us smile and laugh Joy?
4. The Differences between Fun, Happiness, and Joy
 - A. FUN is the pleasure in things that have little importance, because they have no real eternal or even long-term consequences. So playing games, sports, jokes, and parties are fun and make us smile and laugh. Fun is not bad in the right proportion. We need Sabbath rests and fun helps us relax.
But if fun becomes an idol, it will be a demon. And Christians often warn about this demon. Because seeking fun often leads to sin and the short-cuts to fun; like drunkenness, drugs, illegitimate sex, and addiction. (Prov 15:21; Job 20:5; Heb 13:25)
 - B. HAPPINESS is the pleasure of acquiring and owning good things. So when good things are happening in our lives, we smile and laugh. When we are healthy and successful and secure and loved we are happy. When we become sick or fail or feel at risk or unloved, we are unhappy. Christians also warn about making happiness an idol. When health or wealth or popularity or fame or power become the primary goals in our life, it is sin. And oftentimes, God will remove these good things from our lives to teach us of the best things. (Luke 12:16-21; Mt 6:19-21; Mt 6:24-34)
 - C. JOY is the pleasure of being in God's presence. So when life is no fun, when happiness is a distant memory, we can still feel our Father's love and remember that the suffering of this present life are not worthy to be compared with all that God has planned for us. (Rom 8:18; Jn 16:22; Mt 25:23; Psm 30:5; Psm 126:6; Luke 6:22-23; 2 Cor 8:2; Gal 5:22; James 1:2-3; Hab 3:17-18; Heb 12:1; Rev 21:3-4)
SO THERE IS JOY IN THE JOURNEY AND WE ARE OVERCOMERS.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. [Galatians 5:22-23]

Are all of these nine virtues best discovered as a disciple of Christ?

Student Notes

~ Reason 8 ~

I am a Christian because

human freedom is best discovered as a disciple of Christ

If you abide in my word, then are you are truly my disciples; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. [John 8:31-32]

1. Christ came to make men free. Christians experience freedom far above those who are not saved. (Jn 8:31-36; Gal 5:1; 2 Cor 3:17; Luke 4:18; Rom 8:15, 8:21). But like with Joy, Christians do not have a reputation as being free and bringing liberty to others. But Freedom is a very slippery word. What do we mean by free? For most people it means that: "I can do what I want. No one is forcing me to do this or that. I can make my own choices." But the reality is that we are much less free than we think. Secular determinism, religious Buddhism, and Christian Calvinism all assert that freedom is mostly an illusion.
2. But Christianity asserts that men make free choices to reject or accept God. Genesis 3 describes the first choice and the first sin. Men decided to "be as God". In so doing they chose unreality, a lie, a sin. All men since have been enslaved to that lie. This is what Christians mean by "original sin".
3. Jesus makes Christians free from the Power of the Enemy (2Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2, Rev 12:9-11; Luke 10:17-20, Col 2:15), the Power and Punishment of Sin (Jn 8:34, Rom 7:14-25; 1 Pet 2:24, Rom 6:23, Rom 5:21) and free from the Power of the Law (Gal 3:10, Gal 3:13, Col 2:14). Walking in Christian freedom is a balance between Law and Grace, Liberty and License, and Religion and Sin. Christians need to always be aware not to slip into either Legalism or Cheap Grace. (Eph 2:8-9; Gal 1-3; Eph; Gal 5:13; Gal 5:19-21; Gal 5:1; 1 Pet 2:16; Jam 2: 8, 12,17; Col 2:20-23)
4. The history and present cultural situation in the West is one of attempting find true liberty--, losing its balance, and falling away from Christianity and into sinful license (Rom 1:18-32; Phil 3:18-19). As Europe and the United States lose their faith in Christ, the Spirit is moving with great power to grow His church in Africa, South American, and Asia.

How is Christian freedom different from worldly freedom?

"Christian freedom" means the will to do that which God has designed us to do. Otherwise our wills are slaves to our own desires.

"Without the Spirit man's will is not free, since it has been laid under by shackling and conquering desires." - Augustine

"When the will was conquered by the vice into which it had fallen, human nature began to lose its freedom." – Augustine

Story of a delinquent son

Student Notes

~ Reason 9 ~

**I am a Christian because
I have nowhere else to go**

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." [John 6:66-69]*

1. Context of these words.

A growing division amongst the disciples and a growing antagonism from the authorities.

2. World view at time of writing.

a. Struggles with Christ's teaching. Although the 12 disciples may not have understood His words, they knew and trusted Christ.

b. They knew his - authority - in actions teaching, over nature and demons.

c. Identity - Messiah and Son of God, whereas others identified him as son of Joseph.

d. They knew their own need of eternal life.

e. They knew their future was bound up with him

f. Lord to whom shall WE go?

3. A look at current world views/faiths

in the light of: authority, identity, human need and condition, and the future.

- atheism (humanism, secularism, antitheism)

- pantheism

- other monotheistic Faiths. (Judaism and Islam)

*' God sent into the world a unique person neither a philosopher nor a general,
important though they are, but a Saviour with the power to forgive'. Queen Elizabeth II*



Ravi Zacharias teaches that the four big questions in life are these:

1. Where did I come from? (Origin)
2. Where am I going? (Destiny)
3. How should I live? (Morality)
4. Why am I here? (Meaning).

Christianity, as a worldview, is the only faith that provides a coherent and satisfactory answer to all four. Do you agree with this? Can you identify with Peter? Some Christian teaching is so difficult to understand and even more to live out. But where else can I go? Who has the words of eternal life?

Student Notes

~ Reason 10 ~

**I am a Christian because
Jesus invited me and I accepted**

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. [Revelation 3:20]*

1. God loves the world and His will is that all will be saved. (Jn 3:16; 2 Pet 3:9). God knocks on the door of the heart of every man (Rev 3:20). The Father invites all to the wedding supper of his Son (Mt 22:2-14; Rev 22:17). He invites all who are thirsty to come and drink freely (Is 55:1; Jn 7:37-39)
2. But are all free to accept? Many people believe that freedom is mostly an illusion. They believe that we are little more than robots or puppets. Some secular philosophers and psychologists are determinists. They claim that all our actions are a result of genetic and environmental inputs; like computer hardware and software. Many religions believe in Karma or Fate or Destiny. Our past lives or the gods or God Himself determines our decisions. They hope to escape their fate by magic or good luck charms or good fortune.
3. How do Christians view our freedom to accept God's invitation? Many passages in the Bible seems to teach the "Sovereignty of God" and Predestination (Eph 1:4-5, Rom 9-11). Followers of John Calvin emphasize this truth. However, many Bible passages seem to teach that men have the free will to accept or reject God's desires for them. Followers of Jacob Arminius emphasize the truth that God calls us to make choices; to repent, to obey, to work with him.
4. I believe that there is a truth that we both choose and are chosen. It is a mystery beyond our ability to understand (Phil 2:12-13). That we must respond to God's call and obey is a truth. But the larger truth is that God is always the Great Initiator. We can never "find God" on our own. We can never stand in His presence and demand His approval.
5. But as Blaise Pascal and C.S. Lewis articulated, Our Father gives us the "dignity of causality". He is all-powerful and all-good. He could accomplish all that he wishes without men. But like a Father who patiently teaches his son the skills that he needs to succeed, our Father calls us to do important works that we think He could do much better without us. But our Fathers gives us the dignity of doing or not doing things that have eternal consequences.
6. He calls us to be fishermen; to be evangelists. Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11 contain the strongest teaching on God's sovereignty and His power to choose. But in the very middle of this teaching is Rom.10:11-15 stating that the unsaved will not hear the gospel and be saved unless we tell them. Some are called to be Evangelists (Eph 4:11, 2 Tim 4:5).
7. But all are called to be witnesses. We all need to be able to give our testimonies. When we are asked, we need to be able to tell anyone who asks, why we have hope in Christ. Here is your homework assignment. Write down what you would tell a fellow student, if you were asked why you are a Christian.

If you have not yet opened the door of your heart to Jesus, do so right now.

