

F.A.Q. - Week 2

1. Why do some christians (women) wear hats and we don't?

1 Corinthians 11:5

5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

The short answer is that people today apply this verse to themselves without understanding the context. Paul was writing to Christians living in Corinth. In Corinthian culture, a veil on a woman represented submission to their father or husband. If a woman didn't wear a veil, it signified that she was rebellious. Paul wanted the Christian women of Corinth to wear veils because it would have signified to the people that they were rebellious if they didn't. If they were to walk around without veils, they would have been likened to Corinthian temple prostitutes. The prostitutes didn't wear veils and would even shave their heads and offer their hair as a sacrifice to their pagan gods, which is why Paul said "if you don't wear a veil, you might as well shave your heads."

Paul basically didn't want to give the people of Corinth the wrong idea and didn't want the christian women to be confused with Corinthian prostitutes, so he said let's wear veils. The command was specific to the people in Corinth, not to all Christians. We know it is specific to the Corinthian women because Paul goes on to clarify that the *actual* covering of a woman is her hair in verse 15:

1 Corinthians 11:15

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: **for her hair is given her for a covering.**

A woman's covering is **her long, uncut hair**, not a hat or veil.

A similar scenario is in modern Pakistan. It is a part of their culture that women wear veils or head coverings. Our missionaries also wear hair coverings because if they didn't they would offend the culture before they even had a chance to reach them.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: **I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.**

That's why he told the women in Corinth to wear head coverings, not because it is a sin not to, but because the goal is to save them!

Some women today wear veils or hats in church, and it's not that it's wrong, it's just not necessary. Paul's command was specific to the culture of the Corinthians.

2. Is it ok to miss a few days of church in a year due to sports?

Yes, but here are some cautions:

1. Watch that your sport of choice doesn't become an idol in your life.
2. Set a boundary. Define what "a few" means before the season starts and stick to it.
3. Make sure church has the precedent. Your coach is not your Pastor. If your Pastor wants you present for a particular event, service, or outreach ... sorry coach. Also, give your Pastor a heads up that you will be absent.
4. Even though you are not "at the church," still "be the church." If you can't be a Christian while playing sports, quit sports.

3. Is it bad to watch YouTube videos with swearing in them?

Psalm 101:3

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Regardless of how funny or popular something is, if it is inappropriate content, I am not going to watch it.

4. What happened to the dinosaurs?

They went extinct.

A better question might be, "Does the existence of dinosaur fossils contradict the Bible?"

The book of Job, the oldest book in your Bible, speaks of creatures that could fit the description of dinosaurs.

Job 40:15-18 Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He

moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron.

Job 41:1-2 Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down? Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?

Job 41:14-15 Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about. His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal.

Behemoth has a tail like tree – perhaps a dinosaur? It sounds like they are *fishing* for leviathan – maybe an aquatic dinosaur? Perhaps dinosaurs existed during the times of the Bible.

What about the age of the fossils? Aren't they millions or even billions of years old? Doesn't the Bible indicate only around 6000 years of human history?

- There could be errors with Carbon 14 dating.
- GAP Theory – Genesis 1:1 vs. Genesis 1:2.

Regardless, dinosaur fossils don't contradict scripture, it's just difficult to know exactly where they fit in history.

5. What does it mean when Selah is at the end of a Bible verse?

Example:

Psalm 3:4

4 I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. **Selah.**

Selah translated literally is “**a suspension of music.**” Remember that most of Psalms were poetic and were read/sung to music. It means **to pause.**

When we see this word in Scripture, is it a command to PAUSE and REFLECT on what was just read.

6. Is it wrong to be friends with gay/lesbian people?

The Bible says that friendship of the world is enmity with God. (James 4:4) Does this mean we can't be friends with sinners? No. Jesus was a friend of sinners.

It seems today that some “Christians” and Christian groups think homosexuality is a legitimate sexual orientation, but the Bible clearly speaks against homosexuality in both the Old and New Testaments.

Romans 18:26-27

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

1 Timothy 1:9-10

9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

10 For whoremongers, **for them that defile themselves with mankind**, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Jude 1:7

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Biblically speaking, homosexuality is a sin, but it is no more a sin than lying, lusting, drug addiction, or alcoholism, and just like God has life change for the drug addict, He has it for the homosexual.

It is important that we build relationships with people who are sinners and are lost. How can we expect to win people to God if we don't first win them to ourselves and show that we truly care for them. But it's also important that we make sure we influence the sinner instead of the sinner influencing us.

Jude 1:23

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Love the sinner, hate the sin.

7. How do you know that you are the right religion? What makes you believe that out of all the religions in the world, you are believing in the true one?

Our God is the only one who is alive. Every other faith or religion is built around a dead prophet or deity, but Jesus is alive!

The Bible is the main thing that sets Christianity apart from other world religions. Its continuity despite being written over a long period of time by different authors in different parts of the world is quite amazing.

Prophecy in scripture illustrates its divine origin. Man can't tell the future, but God can.

You can feel God's Spirit when we worship and pray to Jesus, something you can't feel anywhere else.

8. If God is loving, why is there pain and abuse?

The curse of Sin is the overlying reason. Mankind is cursed because of Adam and Eve's sin in Eden.

Matthew 5:45

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Good things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to good people. That's life. God didn't intend for it to be that way, but because of sin that's just the way it is. Despite this, however, we can hold onto a powerful promise in scripture:

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The reason the world seems to be getting worse and worse is because of the **CHOICE** of humanity.

- We have chosen to get rid of prayer in schools.
- We choose to continue to move farther away from biblical ideologies, which our country was founded upon, so it's no wonder that we experience evil.
- We have chosen to push God away, and he's not going to force himself on anyone.

Overall, this is a tough question to give a definitive answer to. Just know that no matter what we experience in life, if we stay close to God, someday we will go to a place where there will no longer be any pain or abuse.

9. Why do we observe the 10 commandments but not the rest of the old testament law?

Peter Haas, *Pharisectomy* (Chapter 2)

- “Theologian J.I. Packer proposed a solution for this confusion by distinguishing three separate types of Law (lists of do’s and don’ts that God gave to Moses): Moral, Civil/Political, and Ceremonial Law. Moral Law represents good things to do all the time. The Ten Commandments are no less relevant today than they were thousands of years ago. No Christian would kill their neighbor and say, “It’s all good. I’m a New Testament Christian. I’m not under the Law, right?” And why not? Because these commands are generally good advice no matter what time period you live in.” The moral law is something that God desires of all people all the time.
- “The second type of Law in the Old Testament is Civil/Political Law. These laws were essentially an application of Moral Law on a municipal and national level. These are the Mosaic equivalent of speed limits and garbage restrictions. So if the Moral Law says, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” then the Civil Law might say, “Don’t practice on your shofar at 3 a.m.” Most of these laws only applied as long as Israel was an autonomous nation-state.
- “The last set of laws in the Old Testament are Ceremonial Laws, which were regulations that governed the worship rituals of God’s people. These are the parts of the Old Testament that the book of Hebrews and Colossians refer to as fulfilled. Christ became our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). Christ became our high priest, our sacrifice, once for all time (Hebrews 5:5; 7:27; 9:12). And His work on the cross is the ultimate fulfillment of the Sabbath. Thus, Paul and other Bible authors argued these rituals and laws were nothing more than a shadow of things to come (Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 9:10; 10:1). They were an object lesson - an analogy of sorts - pointing to a greater reality fulfilled in Christ (Hebrews 9:23-24).”

So how do we distinguish which laws are a part of the moral law and therefore are laws we must keep?

First, if we read it in the New Testament, then it applies to us.

Whenever we read that something is an ABOMINATION to the Lord, that’s not just something that Israel established, that is a God thing and is still relevant today.

10. In Luke 1:15 it says John shall be filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother’s womb - how is that possible?

John 7:38-39

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Does this contradict Luke 1:15? No.

The New Birth - David K. Bernard
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Before Pentecost, John the Baptist, his mother Elizabeth, and his father Zacharias were “filled with the Holy Ghost” at specific times (Luke 1:15, 41, 67). Their experience, however, was not the experience of the New Testament church, for the Holy Ghost was not yet given. John did not have the baptism of the Holy Ghost, nor did his disciples (Luke 3:16, 7:28; Acts 19:1-6). His disciples said, “we have not so much heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.”

In Luke 1, the phrase, “filled with the Holy Ghost,” describes an Old Testament experience in which God’s Spirit moved on people at a particular time for a particular purpose. In John’s case, the Spirit anointed him and separated him from his mother’s womb for a special ministry just as He had done with Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5). John’s parents were temporarily endowed with power of the Spirit to give prophetic utterances. Only after Pentecost does “filled with the Holy Ghost” specifically refer to the New Testament Spirit baptism, which first became available at that time.

11. If you don’t win any souls, will you go to Hell?

How do you define winning a soul? Is it when they obey Acts 2:38?

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: **and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.**

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Don’t ask yourself if you are a “soul winner”, ask yourself are you a “labourer”? God is the one who gives the increase and he gets the credit when someone is “won”. Our job is not to save people, but to labour in the field and point people to Jesus, because He saves people. Our job is to sow seed, and water seed.

To answer the question, I would say that if you are not a labourer - if you are not actively sowing and watering seed and working with people, then yes you are not right with God and will therefore go to Hell.

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the talents.

Why was he cast into darkness? Because he wasn't fruitful and did nothing with what his master gave him.

Matthew 25:31-46

Why did they go to everlasting punishment? Because they weren't engaged in helping people.

Being a labourer is important!!