

## **10 questions every teen should ask (and answer) about Christianity by Rebecca McLaughlin**

39 Research shows that going to church weekly helps people to be happier, healthier, live longer, less depressed, less suicide (5x less likely), less drugs, more likely to be generous, more likely to volunteer.

59 In Jesus time, most people believed in lots of gods, now most people are monotheists. Jesus didn't claim to be just another god, but THE God, it was shocking then and now.

88 What if Jesus didn't really die? Like in princess bride when Wesley is just mostly dead, which is still slightly alive (Miracle max). But that's not how crucifixion worked, they killed you completely, if he was mostly dead, he'd have died in the tomb and not have been worth following afterwards.

89 Coronavirus started in one place and spread everywhere, so did the resurrection but it is good news. Jesus disciples didn't expect it,

117 Eph 5 "the call on wives to submit to husband isn't because women are inferior, just as the call to husbands to give up their lives for their wives isn't because men are less valuable than women. It doesn't mean that all women should submit to all men or that a wife should never say no to her husband if he is treating her badly. In fact, a husband abusing his wife is the total opposite picture than what the bible gives us where husbands are called again and again to love their wives." God made men and women different, it's not that men are smarter or that women need more love.

129 Real relationships take risks, sometimes people choose porn because they think it's a safer route. Porn like any drug can make us feel good at the time but leave us feeling empty afterwards and make it harder for us to relate to others. Porn also hurts the people we are watching, their bodies are being used in ways that undermine their value. Plugging into imaginary people unplugs us from real people, or worse, it leads us to treat real people as if they're imaginary – just there to fulfil our fantasies.

163 Sometimes our kids fight and cry, we hold them, can't stop the pain. Jesus holds us in the pain too, he's experienced it too.

We can laugh with anyone, but we tend to cry only with those closest to us, and the bond is strongest when their suffering matches ours, because we know they really understand. Jesus is the only one who truly knows our heart ache, there is no wound he can't touch and he weeps as we do, but the story doesn't end there.

166 Even though Jesus knows the end of the story, when he will wipe away every tear from our eyes, he still weeps with us. We often won't understand the reason for our suffering, but we can trust that he is good.

174 Most of us like to think we are basically good people, not perfect but pretty good, so the idea that we will one day be judged doesn't seem fair. But what if we aren't good?

Imagine if like a comic book, all your thoughts could be seen in a cloud shaped bubble above your head. What would people think of us? Well God can see all those thoughts and his standards are really high, yet he loves us.

In the tv show The Good Place, only people who have lived a really good life are to get into heaven, but Jesus has set the bar really high, see SOTM.

176 Harry Potter and deathly hallows – we realise that part of Voldemorts soul is stored in Harry, so the only way for him to die is if Harry does. Evil can't be extracted from Harry any other way. The bible tells us that we each have a piece of evil lodged in us too, sin and the punishment for it is death. Paul explains that Rom 6:6 that Christ was crucified so he can have our death and we can have his life.

But all the characters that save people in movies, it is always for a good one. But Jesus saves us when we are the enemy. Rom 5:7,8 like Jack in Titanic dying not for Rose but for her evil fiancé.

179 When we come to Jesus we find out

- 1) We are more sinful than we ever thought
- 2) We are more loved than we ever dreamed.

The only truly good person that ever lived, can read your thought bubbles and has the right to judge you. But he loves you so much that he was willing to die for you and take the judgement on himself.