

Why I Still Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

Does Truth Exist? The Road Runner Tactic Answer Key

1. Read Romans 1:18-23. According to Paul, why do some people reject truth and Christianity?

- They give in to the sinful desires of their hearts They suppress the truth by their wickedness.
- They exchanged the truth about God for a lie.
- They worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.
- They did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God.

2. What would you say to someone who says they don't believe in the law of non-contradiction?

- You do believe in it - you're using it right now by saying you do not believe in it!

3. What did the Muslim Philosopher Avicenna say should be done to someone who denies the law of non-contradiction? What's the moral of his quote?

- "He should be beaten and burned until he admits that to be beaten is not the same as not to be beaten, and to be burned is not the same as not to be burned."
- The Moral of the quote is that it is self-defeating to deny the law of non-contradiction: to deny is to use it!

4. Describe the Roadrunner tactic.

- The Road Runner tactic uses the undeniable laws of logic to expose that much of our shared cultural beliefs about truth, religion, and morality are undeniably false. That which is self-defeating cannot be true, but many Americans believe it anyway.
- **"You can't know truth!"**
 - *Answer: Then how do you know that?*
- **"It's true for you but not for me!"**
 - *Answer: Is that statement true just for you, or is it true for everyone?*
 - *{"True for you but not for me" may be the mantra of our day, but it's not how the world really works. If a policeman puffs you over and says you were speeding, do you think you 'll get out of a ticket if you say, "That's true for you but not for me"?}*
- **"No one has the truth."**
 - *Answer: Is that true?*
- **"There are no absolutes."**
 - *Answer: Is that an absolute truth? Are you absolutely sure?*
- **"You can't know anything about God!"**

- *Answer: Then how do you know that about God? Why can't you know anything about God? What do you mean by that? How did you come to that conclusion?*

5. Now try these on your own:

- *"All truth comes from science."*
 - *Is that a scientific truth? Can you prove that in a laboratory?*
- *"You should be open-minded."*
 - *Should I be open-minded about being open-minded?*
- *"You should doubt everything."*
 - *Should I doubt that?*
- *"You're just playing word games with me."*
 - *Is that a word game? I am not engaging in word games, but using good reason to point out that some of your statements violate the law of non-contradiction and thus can't be true.*

6. Why is it not a good argument to say you believe the Bible because of "faith"?

- Because simply believing doesn't make it true. If you believe the earth is fiat, does it make it that way? Truth is truth whether you believe it or not.

7. How would you answer someone who challenges you by saying, "You Christians think you know it all. You can't go around telling people what to believe. It's wrong to force your beliefs on other people!"

- *Then why are you telling me what to believe and do?*

8. In recent years, Matthew 7:1, "Thou shalt not judge" (KJV) has replaced John 3:16, "For God so loved the world" as the most quoted Bible verse. Even non-believers know it and they use it to try and silence Christians. What would you say to someone who claimed: "You ought not judge?" What does Matthew 7:1-5 say? Is Jesus telling us not to judge? (Compare to John 7:24).

- *He's not telling us not to judge- he's telling us how to judge. We can't avoid making judgments. Jesus is simply telling us not to judge hypocritically. We should correct our own behavior before we go help correct our brothers.*

9. The traditional use of tolerance when it comes to other views in society is to "put up with" or "endure." But increasingly in our society, Christians are told we must go beyond the traditional meaning of tolerance and actually celebrate what other people do. Can you think of any time when you or someone you know were told you must deny your beliefs so that others aren't offended? Can you think of any time where others are told they must deny their beliefs so that Christians are not offended? Why is the "tolerance" only one way? (Many people who claim they are fighting for "tolerance" are often the most intolerant.)

- *Answers will vary from person to person.*

10. Are Christians commanded to tolerate or love? When is it loving to be intolerant?

- *Love. Christians are commanded to love, which goes beyond tolerance. Tolerance is too weak. Tolerance says "hold your nose and put up with them. Love says "reach out and help them.*
- *Tolerance is a virtue if you're talking about listening to other points of view, but it's a vice if you're talking about letting destructive or sinful behavior go unopposed. All civilized societies are intolerant of harmful behaviors. You are not loving if you tolerate or endorse sinful behavior. Love does not allow us to be indifferent to acts that destroy other people, and it certainly doesn't allow us to endorse such acts. In fact, Jesus told the woman caught in adultery, to go and sin no more.*

11. Immanuel Kant claimed that we are locked in agnosticism because we "kant" know the real world. Using the law of non-contradiction, how could you easily refute this false claim?

- *Immanuel Kant violates the Law of Non-contradiction. Kant contradicts his own premise by saying that "no one can know the real world" but then claims to know something about it: that the real world is unknowable.*

12. Next to each question below, write down each possible answer that is allowed by the Law of the Excluded Middle:

a. Does God exist?

Yes or no

b. Did Jesus rise from the dead?

Yes or no

c. Was the Apostle Paul executed in Rome?

Yes or no

13. If a conclusion is practically but not absolutely certain, we say that we are:

- *Certain beyond a reasonable doubt - as is the requirement in a court case.*

14. Answer the following:

a. What if the Bible is true? How should this impact a person's life?

- *If the Bible is true, then it provides both meaning and purpose for life here and in eternity. It should impact my life by causing me to change my thinking, actions, and ultimately my destiny in this life and eternity.*

b. What if the Bible is not true? How would this impact a person's life?

- *If the Bible is not true, then it is irrelevant. If no other God exists, then life is meaningless, as we have no design or purpose. The impact on my life would be that I can do whatever I want. Morality doesn't matter, and neither does life. If another God exists, then I would be subject to his teachings.*

c. We can't see gravity and we can't see God. So how do we know either exists?

- We can inductively determine if either exists. For example, we can see that objects fall to the ground. Through observation we can know that there must be some force causing that even though we don't "see" the force directly. Likewise, though we can't see God directly (He is an immaterial being), we can detect Him by his effects (such as creation and morality). Through observation (induction) of what is around us we can draw reasonable conclusions (deductions) about the existence and nature of God.

15. When have you hated and suppressed the truth in order to do or get what you wanted?

- Answers will vary from person to person.

16. Why does truth about religion and morality matter?

- They have temporal and maybe even eternal consequences. Apathy and ignorance can be fatal.