

## Questions for Lesson 31: Why I Left Atheism (Part 1)

1. Give some examples of general things we accept but do not really have faith in.

**Answer:** Style of dress; social customs; procedures in government; etc. Answers can also include things like church buildings and some things done in Church.

2. To what extent do your friends accept their religion rather than have faith in it?

**Answer:** Answers will vary.

3. Identify some misconceptions many people have about the Church.

**Answer:** Answers will vary--a building, an institution.

4. What are some common misconceptions about God?

**Answer:** He is a man or woman. He has human weaknesses. See program 7.

5. Why is it important to develop your own faith and not just adopt our parents faith?

**Answer:** If we do not have our own faith we will be apathetic, lukewarm and stagnant. We also will be hard put to answer the challenges of those outside of Christ.

6. What do you see about Ray Muncy's handling of the situation that was wise.

**Answer:** He did not state his beliefs or rely on traditional explanation, but let me read and interpret the Bible for myself--giving me guidance, but letting me make my own decisions about what the Bible meant.

7. Why is this approach hard to do and perhaps dangerous?

**Answer:** It is dangerous because people can have wacky ideas (and I did). It is hard to do because you really have to know the Word to do it. Ray Muncy knew the Bible and God intimately, and he was able to ask questions that led me to see the whole picture when I tended to isolate scriptures.

8. Why would most denominations and many preachers have trouble with this approach?

**Answer:** If you have a creed or if you have been told, "Here is the answer to every question you will ever need to know," you are in a dangerous spot. When someone pushes you outside of your knowledge and comfort zone you will have a faith problem.

9. What is hypocrisy and why is it an issue with atheists?

**Answer:** In simple terms it is when someone does not practice what they preach. It is a problem because it suggests that the biblical system does not work.

10. What is the proper understanding about hypocrisy?

**Answer:** We are all guilty of it--no matter what our beliefs. Humans are free-thinking moral agents with emotions, and that combination is going to cause you to make mistakes. Christians are never portrayed in the Bible as perfect, only that they strive to be perfect and have the power to be better than they could ever be without that power.