

# Resources Especially for Church Leaders on Cultural Awareness, Christian Worldview, and Christian Apologetics<sup>1</sup>

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## Resources on Cultural Awareness and Christian Responses

- American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS). “American Nones: The Profile of the No Religion Population” (2008). See [https://secularstudents.org/sites/secularstudents.org/files/NONES\\_08.pdf](https://secularstudents.org/sites/secularstudents.org/files/NONES_08.pdf). Links to several studies at <http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/>.
- Barna Research Group ([www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)). Led by David Kinnaman (formerly George Barna).
- Barna, George and David Kinnaman, ed. *Churchless: Understanding Today’s Unchurched and How to Connect with Them*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2014. See [www.barna.org/churchless](http://www.barna.org/churchless).
- Barnett, Larry. “A General Introduction to the Next Generation Project: Understanding and Reversing Christianity’s Recent Decline in the U.S.” (2015). See [www.projectnextgen.org](http://www.projectnextgen.org).
- Kinnaman, David and Aly Hawkins, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church ... and Rethinking Faith* (Baker, 2011).
- Kinnaman, David and Gabe Lyons. *Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You’re Irrelevant and Extreme*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2016.
- Kinnaman, David and Gabe Lyons. *UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity ... and Why It Matters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- Lifeway Research ([www.lifewayresearch.com](http://www.lifewayresearch.com)). Led by Ed Stetzer.
- McFarland, Alex, and Jason Jimenez. *Abandoned Faith: Why Millennials Are Walking Away and How You Can Lead Them Home*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2017.
- Pew Research Center. “‘Nones’ on the Rise: One-in-Five Adults Have No Religious Affiliation” (Oct. 9, 2012).
- Pew Research Center. “America’s Changing Religious Landscape” (May 12, 2015). See <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>.
- Powell, Kara, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. *Churches Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2016. See the accompanying website at <http://churchesgrowingyoung.com>. Based on research with over 250 of the nation’s leading congregations who are effectively engaging 15-29 year olds.
- Putman, Jim, and Bill Putman. *Hope for the Prodigal: Bringing the Lost, Wandering, and Rebellious Home*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2017. The book offers biblical truths and practical advice, based on personal experience, on how to reach prodigal children with love and service.
- Shaw, Haydn. *Generational IQ: Christianity Isn’t Dying, Millennials Aren’t the Problem, and the Future Is Bright*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2015. Offers a perceptive (and positive) analysis of four basic generations along with practical proposals for how Christians should approach friends and family, and for how the church should respond.
- White, James Emery. *The Rise of the Nones: Understanding and Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated*. Baker, 2014. A survey and analysis of the fastest growing demographic group in America—the religiously unaffiliated—and how the church can effectively reach them.

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<sup>1</sup> These sources are especially recommended for church or small group leaders, particularly in conjunction with, or as a follow up to, the Room For Doubt six-week message and curriculum series. Many of the books are available in cheaper digital versions. For more resources on defending and presenting the Christian faith, see <http://www.roomfordoubt.com/recommended-resources.html>.

White, James Emery. "Church and Culture Blog." Accessible at <http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp>. White successfully bridges academic astuteness and down-to-earth analyses of culture and challenges for the church. He is former president of Gordon-Conwell and founder and senior pastor of a megachurch in Charlotte, NC.

White, James Emery. *Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World* (Baker, 2017).

## **Resources on Christian Worldview and Apologetics**

Copan, Paul. *When God Goes to Starbucks: A Guide to Everyday Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008. Copan addresses a variety of problematic slogans that are often connected to views of truth and reality, to worldviews, and to Christianity.

Craig, William L. and Joseph E. Gorra. *A Reasonable Response: Answers to Tough Questions on God, Christianity, and the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2013.

Dembski, William, and Michael Licona. *50 Evidences for God: Arguments for Faith from the Bible, History, Philosophy, and Science*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2010. Offers short essays on questions of philosophy, science, Jesus, and the Bible.

Geisler, Norman and Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004. Contends that it takes more faith to reject the existence of God than to accept it. It covers many questions (e.g. about God, design, first life, new life forms, miracles, Jesus, the New Testament, Jesus' resurrection, and who Jesus was and is).

Johnson, Donald. *How To Talk to a Skeptic: An Easy-to-Follow Guide for Natural Conversations and Effective Apologetics*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2013.

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. New York, NY: Dutton, 2008. Part One responds to prominent criticisms of Christianity (e.g. there can't be just one religion; a good God wouldn't allow suffering; Christianity is a straitjacket; the church is responsible for injustice; a loving God would not send people to hell; science has disproven Christianity; the Bible can't be taken literally). Part Two focuses on the reasons for faith (e.g. clues of God; the knowledge of God; the problem of sin; religion and the Gospel; the (true) story of the cross; the resurrection).

Keller, Timothy. *Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical*. New York, NY: Viking, 2016. Compared to Keller's book *The Reason for God*, this book shows the relevance and the desirability of Christianity so that the skeptic or secularist would be open to hearing about the reasons for God. It is filled with documented quotations and illustrations that would be useful for a teaching or preaching reference. (See Rich Knopp's review in June 2017 *Christian Standard* available here: <http://christianstandard.com/2017/helping-the-skeptical-see-god/>.)

Knopp, Richard A. "Where Will We Go Without God?" *Christian Standard* 149 (June 2014): 38-40. Online at <http://christianstandard.com/2014/06/where-will-we-go-without-god/>.

Knopp, Richard A. "Your Faith Is In Danger: Prepare for the Assault." Video presentation for high school youth. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K64sZ3mlnso>.

Knopp, Richard A. "Learning to Love God in a World of Growing Skepticism and Secularism." 2016 North American Christian Convention session. <http://worldvieweyes.org/NACCI6.html> and video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuiEWpf6Ohw&feature=youtu.be>.

Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009. Koukl offers practical strategies for communicating and defending the Christian faith.

Lennox, John D. *Seven Days that Divide the World: The Beginning According to Genesis and Science*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011. Lennox is a professor of mathematics at Oxford. This book includes chapters on the scope and limits of science, matters of design, evolution, the origin of life, and the genetic code and role of information.

- Lennox, John D. *Against the Flow: The Inspiration of Daniel in an Age of Relativism*. Daniel and his friends did not simply maintain their private devotion to God; they maintained a high-profile witness in a pluralistic society antagonistic to their faith. This book has much to say to Christians and the church today.
- McDowell, Sean. *Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking About God*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2009. Contains 16 chapters by various authors with ideas and insights for effectively and persuasively communicating the Christian message to a postmodern culture.
- McGrath, Alister. *Doubting: Growing Through the Uncertainties of Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: InterVarsity, 2006. McGrath says that “doubt is an invitation to grow in faith and understanding, rather than something we need to panic about or get preoccupied with.” It deals with the nature of doubt; doubt and the vain search for certainty; doubt in other worldviews; personal aspects of doubt; doubt in the Bible; doubts about the gospel, yourself, Jesus, and God; and how to handle doubt.
- McGrath, Alister. *Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers & Skeptics Find Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012. McGrath has doctorates in molecular physics and theology from Oxford. The book’s nine chapters include chapters on various “pointers” to God and “gateways” for opening the door to faith.
- Mittelberg, Mark. *Confident Faith: Building a Firm Foundation for Your Beliefs*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2013. Part One discusses and analyzes six “paths” to faith; Part Two offers 20 “arrows of truth” from science, logic, the Bible, history, and experience. Part Three addresses 10 “barriers” to belief.
- Mittelberg, Mark. *The Reason Why Faith Makes Sense*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2011. A small book that deals with questions about faith, God, the Bible, our accountability to God, Jesus, and God’s forgiveness.
- Pearcey, Nancy. *Finding Truth: 5 Principles for Unmasking Atheism, Secularism, and Other God Substitutes*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2015. Includes an Appendix on Romans 1:1—2:16 and uses this passage as a springboard to discuss five principles for a Christian response to our age: identify the idol; identify the idol’s reductionism, test the idol by asking if it contradicts what we know about the world; test the idol to see if it contradicts itself; and replace the idol by making a case for Christianity.
- Powell, Doug. *Holman QuickSource Guide to Christian Apologetics*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2006. A book packed with much information in an attractive and colorful layout with many pictures. It talks about “apologetics” (giving a defense of the Christian faith), considerations about God’s existence, the origin of the New Testament, the reliability of the Old and New Testament, miracles, prophecy, Jesus’ resurrection, who Jesus was, and the problem of evil.
- Powell, Kara E. and Chap Clark. *Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.
- Strobel, Lee. *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.
- Turek, Frank. *Stealing From God: Why Atheists Need God to Make Their Case*. Colorado Springs, CO: Tyndale, 2014. Explains how atheists, in trying to make a case for atheism, steal ideas or realities that actually come from Christianity. The book specifically discusses causality, reason, information and intentionality, evil, and science.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2013. Wallace uses his nationally recognized skills as a homicide detective to look at the evidence and eyewitnesses behind Christian beliefs. Including gripping stories from his career and the visual techniques he developed in the courtroom, Wallace uses illustration to examine the powerful evidence that validates the claims of Christianity.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity for Kids: Investigate Jesus with a Real Detective*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2016. In this children’s companion to the bestselling *Cold-Case Christianity*, detective Wallace gets kids excited about testing witnesses, examining the evidence, and investigating the case for Christianity.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *God’s Crime Scene: A Cold-Case Detective Examines the Evidence for a Divinely Created Universe*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2015. Wallace is a cold-case homicide expert who has

appeared on cases on truTV (Court TV) and NBC's "Dateline." He applies his cold-case methods to the origins of the universe.

White, James Emery. *A Mind for God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006. A relatively small book that's a great place to start in being challenged to develop and use your mind for God.

Zacharias, Ravi. *Has Christianity Failed You?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010. This book is for those who are skeptical or just asking questions about the Christian faith. It looks at some of the basics of faith, what it means to be a Christian, and what difference it makes. It includes questions on each chapter for discussion and reflection.

Zacharias, Ravi and Norman Geisler, eds. *Is Your Church Ready? Motivating Leaders to Live an Apologetic Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003. Offers eight chapters that focus on cultivating a climate for apologetics. Chapters especially address pastors, church leaders, leaders in the home, and those who work with college students and internationals. It includes a church leaders' annotated resource guide.

### **Some Websites on Christian Worldview and Apologetics**

<http://www.alwaysbeready.com>. Always Be Ready Apologetics Ministry headed by Charlie Campbell. It is "dedicated to equipping people with well-researched information on issues that seek to undermine or challenge the truth of Christianity as revealed in the Bible." It includes links to many topics and research areas.

<http://www.ankerberg.com>. A website of John Ankerberg's Theological Research Institute that provides a wide range of written, audio-video resources on Christian apologetics, cults, world religions, media, and science.

<http://www.answersingenesis.org>. A young earth creationist website headed by Ken Ham.

<http://www.apologetics315.com>. The site hopes to be a significant educational resource for churches, campus groups, and Christians around the world.

<http://www.arn.org>. Many resources from the Intelligent Design community.

<http://coldcasechristianity.com>. J. Warner Wallace, a cold-case homicide detective defends Christianity.

<http://www.crossexamined.org>. Headed by Frank Turek, co-author with Norman Geisler of the book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*.

<http://ehrmanproject.com>. Offers responses to Bart Ehrman's skeptical claims about the Bible. Ehrman is a university professor who frequently appears in TV religious documentaries.

<http://www.garyhabermas.com>. Gary Habermas specializes in the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus.

<http://www.josh.org>. A website for the ministry of Josh McDowell, a prominent Christian author and speaker who addresses key questions about Jesus, the Bible, the resurrection of Christ, etc.

<http://www.leestrobel.com>. Website of former atheist and former Chicago *Tribune* reporter, Lee Strobel, who is now a prominent defender of the Christian faith.

<http://oneminuteapologist.com>. Brief video interviews with a variety of Christian thinkers.

<http://www.ratiochristi.org>. Attempts to strengthen the faith of Christian students at universities.

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org>. The website of William Lane Craig, a leading Christian apologist and debater, that offers both scholarly and popular materials, including podcasts and videos.

<http://www.reasons.org>. Reasons to Believe website of Hugh Ross, a Christian astronomer, who defends the compatibility between biblical creation and a very old universe of over 13 billion years.

<http://www.risenjesus.com>. Website of Mike Licona, a Christian apologist and president of Risen Jesus, Inc.

<http://www.roomfordoubt.com>. A website that offers an environment to encourage questions, address doubts, and strengthen faith. A variety of resources are provided, including a six-week curriculum.

<http://www.rzim.org>. Ravi Zacharias is a powerful and popular Christian apologist and speaker who hosts a weekly radio broadcast called "Let My People Think."

<http://www.thepoachedegg.net>. Offers a wide array of apologetic resources.

<http://www.worldvieweyes.org>. WorldViewEyes is designed to inform youth and adults about various worldviews and to help them think critically about their culture with a Christian mind. The site includes papers, outlines, and links to audio and video presentations by Dr. Rich Knopp, Professor of Philosophy & Apologetics at Lincoln Christian University, Director of WorldViewEyes, and Project Coordinator for Room For Doubt ([www.roomfordoubt.com](http://www.roomfordoubt.com)).