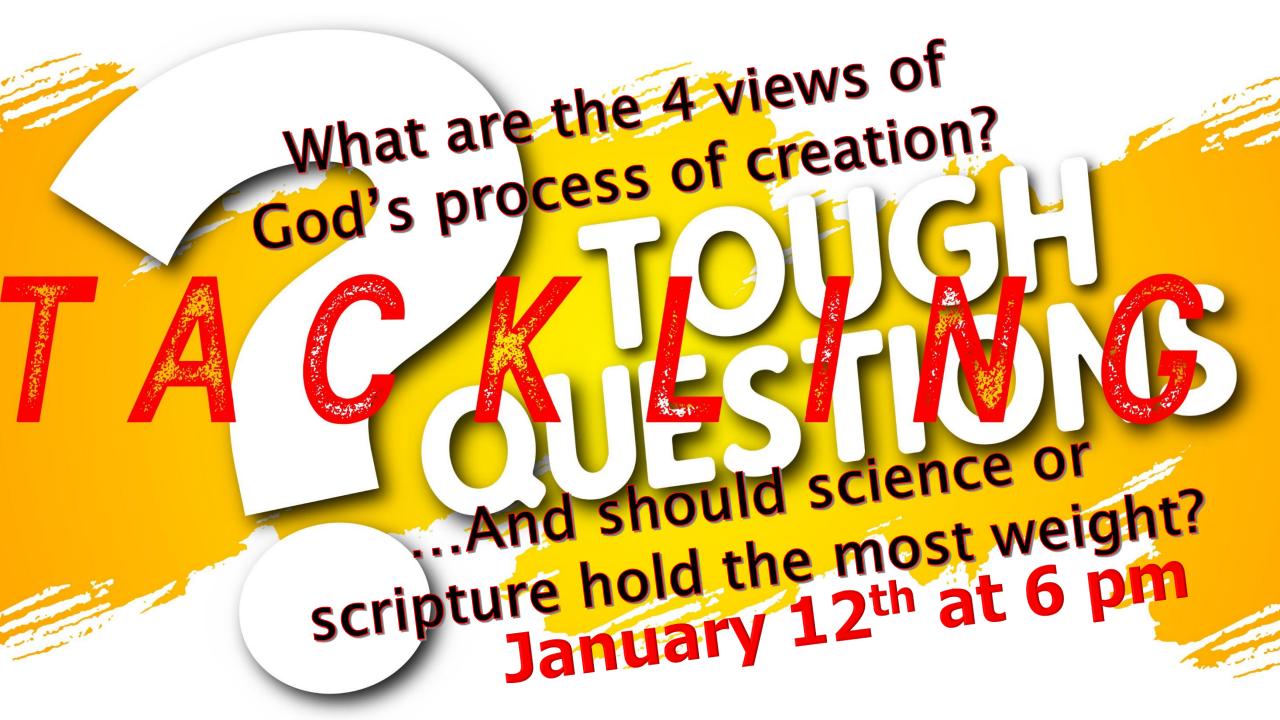
PRAYER MINISTRY





Knowing and

Defending the Faith

2 Important Steps to Defending the Faith: 1. Ask Questions 2. Listen (Repeat Process)

When Defending the Faith, Know Your Audience & Your Limits

Are you talking with an antitheist, atheist, agnostic, deist, or theist?

Ask questions, listen intently, and keep asking and listening.

Don't get offended by provocation – but defend with gentleness and respect – sharing the truth with grace and love.

You don't have to have all the answers (you don't anyway!)

Remember that the primary roadblock to belief in Jesus is <u>NOT</u> intellectual, but spiritual blindness, and even if you give all the right answers and share all the best evidence, this is never enough.

The work of the Holy Spirit is what's needed most.

1 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Romans 1:20 (NIV₂₀₁₁) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Do you honor Christ the Lord as holy in your heart? Will you live by the Holy Spirit's power and defend the faith with gentleness and respect?

Some Questions to Consider Asking Unbelievers

Do you think there is such a thing as absolute truth?

Should morality be whatever culture defines it to be?

Do you think there is such a thing as evil?

Do you know many ancient cultures share a similar flood story?

Why do we long for love, justice, meaning, fellowship, and affirmation?

What do you think happens when you die?

Have you ever looked at the evidence of near-death experiences?

Have you ever noticed the pursuit of "stuff" doesn't produce lasting joy?

Frank Turek: "If Christianity were true, would you believe it?"

What do you think of the person of Jesus called Christ?

Psalm 19:1-2 (HCSB) ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. ² Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge.

Do you realize that you are not alone in defending the faith?

True brothers and sisters in Christ as well as the entire universe proclaims God's handiwork.

So, are you in the faith and part of God's family?