

**FAITH & PROOF, with DR. TIM KELLER : CLASS 1**  
–Student Notes–

**INTRODUCTION**

Worldview: The set of basic beliefs through which we see and understand reality.

All worldviews fall into 2 categories:

1. RELIGIOUS - God exists
2. SECULAR – God does not exist—or—we can't know one way or the other

These 2 categories lead to radically different conclusions about the nature of reality, the purpose of life, what it means to be human, how we determine good from evil, and the basis for hope and happiness.

Therefore it's important to answer the question: WHICH WORLDVIEW IS CORRECT?

This question is difficult to answer because both views lack undeniable proof.

For this class, we'll be reviewing and discussing a lecture by Dr Timothy Keller, from his Questioning Christianity series. Go deeper on this topic with his books, *Reason for God* and *Making Sense of God*.

The Goal of this Class:

To equip you to THINK and SPEAK clearly about faith and proof,  
so you can SHARE JESUS with others.

## FAITH & PROOF, with DR. TIM KELLER : CLASS 1

-Student Notes-

### VIDEO 1

*You can't talk about whether you believe in God or not unless you go back far enough to answer how you can believe in anything.... You need to answer the question, "How can you believe a thing you can't prove?" —Tim Keller*

The Problem: How do we account for these 2 facts:

1. Lots of smart people conclude there is \_\_\_\_\_ evidence for God.
2. Lots of smart people conclude there is \_\_\_\_\_ evidence for God.

Two Theories:

1. Religious people are \_\_\_\_\_, whereas secular people are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Problems with this theory:
    - i. The strongest arguments for God are never \_\_\_\_\_  
There is always room for \_\_\_\_\_  
Therefore secular people can have intellectual \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Christians believe God wants us to exercise \_\_\_\_\_ in addition to reason.
2. Secular people have REASON, whereas religious people have FAITH and an EMOTIONAL need to believe. Secular people are UNBIASED and OBJECTIVE.
  - a. We'll explore the problems with this theory in the next section!

### REVIEW & DISCUSS

- Review worksheet blanks
- Small Group Discussion:
  - Break into groups of 2-3 to discuss whether you think Theory 2 above is true or not.
  - Afterward, 2-3 people share your thoughts with the class

## FAITH & PROOF, with DR. TIM KELLER : CLASS 1

–Student Notes–

### VIDEO 2

\_\_\_\_\_ Theory:

Removing Faith and Emotion enables us to see the world with the clear eye of Reason, which reveals the truth of secularism. (*A Secular Age*, by Charles Taylor)

*THESIS:* Secularism is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of belief, but the presence of a \_\_\_\_\_ of beliefs, which are just as \_\_\_\_\_ as religious beliefs.

If this is true: *Both* secular and religious people equally must \_\_\_\_\_ their beliefs.

Problems with Subtraction Theory:

1. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ the existence of God
  - a. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to prove the statement: *Matter can generate and maintain itself without a supernatural reality.*
  - b. Therefore the secularist has a view of reality based on \_\_\_\_\_
2. There are as many \_\_\_\_\_ reasons (which may cloud our rational faculties) to disbelieve in God as there are to believe.

*It isn't just that I don't believe in God.... It's that I hope there is no God. I don't want there to be a God. I don't want the universe to be like that. —Thomas Nagel*

*I must admit for myself, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation from a certain system of morality. I objected to the morality because it interfered with my sexual freedom. —Aldous Huxley*

- a. Both Secular and Religious worldviews are on \_\_\_\_\_ emotional ground.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ comes to the question of God in an objective and unbiased way.

### REVIEW & DISCUSS

- Review worksheet blanks
- Class Discussion:
  - What struck you as important? What questions were raised? How might you engage friends & neighbors this week about faith & proof?

**NEXT WEEK: A 3<sup>rd</sup> argument against Subtraction Theory, and a way forward.**