

REASONS

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IS CHRISTIANITY RATIONAL, RELEVANT, AND GOOD?

By Kenneth Samples

From the introduction of Kenneth's new book, *Christianity Cross-Examined: Is It Rational, Relevant, and Good?*



I have been in Christian apologetics for more than thirty years. There has been a change in the types of questions that people, especially students, ask concerning Christianity.

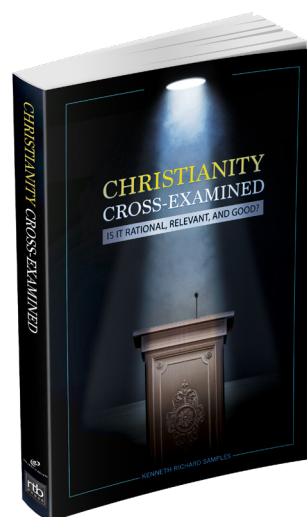
In my early years as an apologist, I found that people attending my talks mostly asked about the *truth* of Christianity. Does God exist? Is Christianity true? Did Jesus really rise from the dead? However, over the last decade or so, the questions have changed. I still get truth questions, but now people seem more concerned with whether Christianity is a *good* religion.

For example, college students ask about Christianity's relationship to slavery. Others inquire about events in church history that involved violence, such as the Crusades and the Inquisition. And I'm asked biblical questions about God's involvement in Israel's defeat of the Canaanites. So, to some degree, the questions about Christianity have transitioned from truth questions to questions about the faith's goodness and morality.

Some would say the questions about and objections to Christianity have shifted from those reflected in the modern mindset to those reflected in the postmodern mindset. Considering this transition—as well as the claims of vocal contemporary skeptics and atheists—this book seeks to address whether Christianity is rational, relevant, *and* good.

—Kenneth Samples

RESOURCE



Christianity Cross-Examined: Is It Rational, Relevant, and Good? is now available for purchase at shop.reasons.org.
Get your copy today!

GROWING IN TRUTH AND EVANGELISM



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

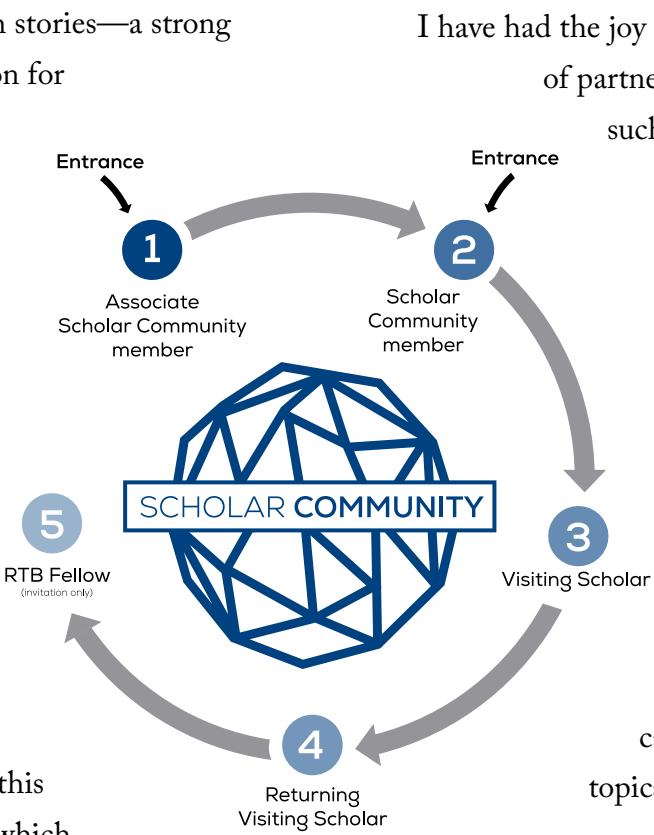


As a child, I had a love for growing in God’s wisdom and truth. Even at an early age, I wanted to hold onto that which stood the test of time—maybe you can relate. For those in the RTB Scholar Community, this same love exists within their career and faith stories—a strong desire for truth and a passion for building others up in that truth.

It’s my privilege to play a part in helping connect with and develop our community members toward being strong scholar-evangelists, reaching people in STEMM and STEMM-influenced fields with the gospel. RTB does this by providing a structure in which members learn and thrive.

We have recently launched a membership track in the program that offers students currently working toward their PhD an opportunity to participate in the Scholar Community, as an Associate Scholar Community member, and receive mentorship from those who are well

seasoned. Those who hold a PhD (or equivalent) can apply to be Scholar Community members. Members gain access to our diverse network of scholars and to our library of exclusive resources on evangelism. They also write for our blog *Voices* and participate in other partnership opportunities.



I have had the joy and honor of partnering with such a member, philosopher and lawyer Stephen McAndrew. He has written a variety of compelling pieces for *Voices* on reasons.org such as: [“How Christianity Best Explains Human Equality”](#) and [“Why Would a Loving God Punish Us?”](#) McAndrew frequently joins us on our monthly community call, where we engage relevant topics with the RTB staff scholars.



Another ambassador of truth that we often hear from is Scholar Community member and visiting scholar [Mark Clark](#). He specializes in national security and has brought fresh insight, and well-timed jokes, to both our meetings and numerous RTB resources. Clark spent time with our team in 2019 working on various projects, including research in [the book](#)

[of Daniel](#). His study brought insights on leadership and public engagement, broadening and deepening RTB’s storehouse of research knowledge.



As RTB seeks to spread the truth of the gospel, we’ve been delighted to create opportunities for more in-depth engagement. Nominated from our list of visiting scholars, retired NASA astrophysicist [Cynthia Cheung](#) joined us as our first fellow. Cheung’s passion for reaching the Asian population with the gospel inspired us to partner with her on a major project: translating *Navigating Genesis* into Mandarin. It has been a gift to work with her, first as a Scholar Community member, then as a visiting scholar, and now as a fellow, and it all started with her desire to proclaim God’s truth and help others grow in faith. I’m encouraged to know that our partners share in this vision as well.

Membership in the Reasons Legacy Fellowship (RLF) provides RTB with invaluable long-term sustainability. Thoughtfully including RTB in your will or trust helps leave a legacy of eternal impact for generations to come. Colin, longtime donor, Apologetics Community member, and RLF member, shares his motivations for including RTB in his will.

The recent death of my mother stirred me to review my life in many ways. Although saddened, I found great strength in contemplating the hope we have in our Savior Jesus Christ. And because RTB has inspired and strengthened my hope and faith, I naturally would like to recognize RTB by including them in my own final estate planning.

When asked what he would say to others about the significance of leaving a charitable gift, he replied,

If your will/trust is going to reflect what has been important in your life, then those you leave behind will clearly see and appreciate the significance of a charitable gift as part of your legacy. I hope that RTB will always be there to reconcile science and the Christian faith. As our culture changes and becomes more secular, RTB will be more important than ever to future generations.

Like Colin, you can build a long-lasting foundation for reaching people with the gospel—by connecting the latest scientific discoveries with the timeless truths of Scripture—for generations to come.



If you would like to talk to someone about joining the Reasons Legacy Fellowship, please contact donor relations manager Joel Wood at jwood@reasons.org or (626) 335-1480.



WILL BRAIN IMPLANTS PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR OUR SALVATION?

In 2016, Elon Musk helped found Neuralink, a company with the express goal of building a neural implant that can sync with the human brain. These implants are among the latest developments in brain-computer interface (BCI) technology.

It's easy to be excited about a technology that could alleviate the pain and suffering associated with neuromuscular disease, brain and spinal cord injuries, loss of limbs, and many other afflictions.

Using technology to mitigate pain and suffering and to drive human progress is not a new concept. (And it's something Christians can stand behind.) But, transhumanists desire more. They maintain that humanity has a moral obligation to use advances in biotechnology and bioengineering to take control of our own evolution, with the ultimate objective of creating new and improved versions of human beings and, as a result, ushering in a posthuman future.

Transhumanists desire to create a utopia through science and technology. Though clothed in the language of science and technology—make no mistake—a strong religious undercurrent buoys transhumanism. In this regard, for those practicing the religion of techno faith, transhumanism serves as the source of hope, purpose, and destiny for each individual and for humanity at large.

We must ask: Can the transhumanist agenda deliver on its promises? Or does it present a counterfeit salvation? Is it true that only through the personal, loving God of the Bible, not technology, can we find genuine hope, purpose, and destiny?

For more on this topic, see [“Will Elon Musk’s Neuralink Make It Possible to Control Electronic Devices With Our Minds?”](#) on reasons.org.

—Fazale “Fuz” Rana