

## Discussion Questions for *The Contemporary Christian*

1. “The younger generation tell us they are not interested in history.” Why do you think this is? What can be done about it?
2. What implication for social progress is there in the fact that we “retain vestiges of the divine image”? How does this affect your view of society and the value of working to change things for the better?
3. What does the Bible mean by “sin”? How does this differ from what people tend to think?
4. How would you reply to someone who suggested that all we need for effective evangelism is the Holy Spirit?
5. What explanations are there for the disappearance of Jesus’ body from the tomb? Why is his resurrection the only satisfactory explanation?
6. How would you answer someone who said that “the resurrection happened too long ago to be of any great importance for us today”?
7. What is the place of God’s law in the Christian life? Are we free to disobey it? Are there areas where you are using a wrong view of law to justify disobedience?
8. “They expect God to flash on to their inner screen answers to their questions and solutions to their problems, in such a way as to bypass their minds.” What is wrong with this kind of expectation?
9. What place does the Bible have in helping us to discover God’s will for our lives?
10. Why is it “essential to note that both distributing food and teaching the word were referred to as ministry”? Is this how you see it? How is what *you* do ministry?
11. What sort of things do people identify as the chief distinguishing mark of a Christian? Why? Why is love preeminent?
12. “One of the greatest needs of the contemporary church is conscientious biblical exposition from the pulpit.” Why? How much of a priority is this in your life and that of your church?
13. Why is there “no chance of the church taking its evangelistic task seriously” unless we return to the Bible?

You may print and distribute these discussion questions for individual or group use.



Provided by InterVarsity Press  
Downers Grove, Illinois  
[www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com)

14. How would you respond to someone who said that “since the Bible is a culturally conditioned book, it is therefore out of date”?
15. How much of a difficulty for you is the invisibility of God? How has God solved this problem?
16. How does “the fact that we are sent into the world like [Jesus] . . . shape our understanding of mission”?
17. What is “the nature of the unity for which Christ prayed”? How does this affect your approach to ecumenical relations?
18. What does “pastor” mean? Why is it such an appropriate way of describing the church’s leaders?
19. Why is it “essential at the outset to clarify that Christians claim uniqueness and finality only for Christ and not for Christianity”? To what extent does your own experience of evangelism reflect this distinction?
20. What is the significance of the Christian’s claim that “Jesus is *my* Lord and Saviour”?
21. “The tragedy of the Old Testament is that Israel kept forgetting the universal scope of God’s promises.” To what extent is this your tragedy too?
22. What do you see as the relationship between evangelism and social responsibility? How can the church respond to the need to hold these two things together?
23. Why is evangelism “impossible without the Holy Spirit”?
24. How is the return of Jesus linked with the mission of the church?
25. How can the “now-not yet” tension help us to work out a biblical attitude to society?

You may print and distribute these discussion questions for individual or group use.



Provided by InterVarsity Press  
Downers Grove, Illinois  
[www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com)