

WHO NEEDS FAITH?

Introduction – Some object to the very idea of discussing what they or anyone else believes about anything. Usually they limit “faith” to people’s religious ideas. Let everyone believe and practice what they want, as long as it doesn’t hurt anyone. Faith is misunderstood as an optional matter that is more opinion than anything else.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

A. Faith is the foundation on which we build our lives and is not optional for anyone.

1. Scientists believe the physical universe is uniform and that it may be rationally grasped by our five senses. This is a faith assumption that cannot be proven without assuming these two principles it is attempting to prove. For example, we can reasonably conclude that water boils at 100° C today and everyday under similar circumstances.
2. An ancient Chinese philosopher, Chang Chou, described our human predicament well: “How can I tell why I am so or why I am not so? Once I, Chang Chou, dreamed that I was a butterfly. I was conscious that I was quite pleased with myself. Suddenly I awoke, and there I was visible Chou. I did not know in that moment if it was Chou dreaming or the butterfly dreaming that it was Chou.”

B. What is the source of our beliefs?

1. Some are commonsensical ones that almost everyone assumes are true.
2. Other beliefs are taught to us by parents, educational institutions, our peers, religious institutions, or some form of media.
3. Therefore, some beliefs are universally assumed and others are culturally conditioned.

C. Since we all believe foundational things that greatly affect us and others, should we not examine our beliefs to see if they are true?

1. We can use commonsense and good reasoning along with our experiences to test the truthfulness of beliefs.
2. Some beliefs are more important than others and call for more serious inquiry.
 - a. Where did it come from?
 - b. What is my purpose for living?
 - c. What is of lasting value?
 - d. Where am I going when I die?

3. The most important questions are inherently religious. Is there a God who created the universe and me for a purpose or not?

Ecclesiastes 1:13-14

Conclusion – It matters what you believe because beliefs are behind all our actions and emotions. We all are believers. The only difference is what we choose to believe. On important issues like the purpose of human life, our accountability to a divine being for our actions and the eternal consequences for how we live our lives, we should carefully examine our rationale.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Reference: Why Should Anyone Believe Anything at All? James W. Sire, IVP Press