

Faith Questions

2014 Friends Day

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Isn't Christianity too Narrow?

*Conviction
naturally requires
limits.*

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Isn't Christianity too Narrow?

*The teachings of
God are life-giving.*

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Isn't Christianity too Narrow?

“Although it has been fashionable to deny it, anti-slavery doctrines began to appear in Christian theology soon after the decline of Rome and were accompanied by the eventual disappearance of slavery in all but the fringes of Christian Europe...Finally, the abolition of New World slavery was initiated and achieved by Christian activists.”

– Rodney Stark

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Isn't Christianity too Narrow?

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Can the Gospels Be Trusted?

*What criteria would
we use to ask this
question of any
ancient document?*

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The following list of questions is by Dr. Greg Boyd.

1. Does the text claim to be from an eyewitness account, based on an eyewitness account, or is it hearsay?



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2. Does the text contain specific, maybe even irrelevant material?



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**3. Does the document
contain self-damaging
material?**



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**4. Is the document
reasonably self-
consistent?**



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5. Is there evidence of growing legend in the document?



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**6. Would there be a
motive for fabricating the
document?**



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**7. Are there other sources
that confirm the material
in the document?**



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**8. Does archaeology
support or go against the
material in the
document?**



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**9. Could contemporaries
have falsified the
account, and would they
have motivation to do
so?**



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1. Does the text claim to be from an eyewitness account, based on an eyewitness account, or is it hearsay?

- **John states that he is an eye-witness.**
- **Luke states that his account is taken from eye-witnesses.**
- **Matthew and Mark assume the perspective of eye-witnesses.**



2. Does the text contain specific, maybe even irrelevant material?

John 20:1-10



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3. Does the document contain self-damaging material?

- The apostles are described as imperfect believers who are slow to understand Jesus.
- The first ones to discover Jesus' resurrection were women.



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4. Is the document reasonably self-consistent?

They have consistency without being word for word, as if someone was intentionally copying the same message.



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5. Is there evidence of growing legend in the document?

The gospels contain incredible things without reading like mythology.



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6. Would there be a motive for fabricating the document?

The apostles did not stand to gain much by sharing their faith, but they had a great deal to lose.



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**7. Are there other sources
that confirm the material
in the document?**

**Yes, materials in the 1st
and 2nd Centuries.**



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8. Does archaeology support or go against the material in the document?

There have been many times when archaeological theories have been disproven or corrected by the Biblical evidence.



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9. Could contemporaries have falsified the account, and would they have motivation to do so?

They would have had great motivation to discredit the message, but no one did.



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"I AM" statements

John 8

John 10:30

Matthew 16:16

Luke 4

Luke 24:27, 44

Matthew 13

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Did Jesus Claim to Be the Christ?