

## Sample student essay

[Assume the instructions for this essay were to write somewhere in the neighborhood of 1000 words comparing and contrasting the approaches to the Big Questions taken by Christianity and by a thoroughly modern worldview.]

Ever since the beginning of mankind people have been asking themselves the answers to some big questions about their lives. Things like where people came from and why we are here. These questions seem so natural to ask, and everyone wants answers they can believe in. Some people might think that the answers are just a matter of opinion, and everyone can just believe whatever they want, but I disagree. I feel that everyone has within them something like a conscious that tells them some of the answers if they will just listen. But modern people have blocked out their conscious because they believe that science experts will tell them everything they need to know. It is arrogant to think that the little human mind by itself can get all the answers to these questions. It needs to have a conscious open to God.

Science is not a very good way to answer the big questions about life, but modern people think that if science doesn't have an answer to something then we don't have the answer. This is because if you are modern, you believe in individualism. According to individualism, each person can make up their own mind about things like the big questions, so long as they use science ideas for getting their answers. So, when science does not tell about the purpose of human life, a modern person will think there is no purpose, and they will feel hopeless. And, as far as I know, science cannot tell us about right and wrong. We have to get that knowledge into our conscious by listening to God. So the modern person is left ignorant of right and wrong, and thinks they can do whatever they want. This is why a more modern culture has so much divorce and homosexuality. Modern people have lost their knowledge of right and wrong because they are just looking for science to tell them everything.

Christianity tells us that God has a plan for everyone, and God cares about people. Christianity tells us that God sent Jesus to save us so we can be with God after we die. These truths from Christian teaching and the Bible help people see the answer to their questions. They give us the answer about what will happen when we die, and about how we should live. Modern people can't accept these ideas because they don't come from science. Modern people want scientific proof for everything. So modern people miss out on the answer to some of the big questions. Modern people think we have no purpose and death is the end of everything, because they think we came about through random chance evolution and that we have no conscious and no soul. Christianity says we do have a God-given purpose and a soul that can be with God forever.

Christianity says that the answers to our big questions come from God in the Bible. All you have to do is read it and accept it and you will have your answers. Except for the

answers that God does not think we can handle. Maybe there are some things we are just not meant to know. Christianity thinks God is beyond human understanding. Modern people do not agree with any of this. They can't accept the Bible because it is not science. They don't believe that the Bible is the word of God, because they don't believe in God. They don't believe in God because they say God cannot be proved scientifically. So, modern people would not say that the Bible answers our big questions, but Christians would say that it answers the ones we can understand.

I don't understand why modern people say you can't believe in God. Modern people are supposed to think that it's all right to have your own beliefs if you base them on experience and reasoning. Many Christians have experienced God in their own lives many times. I have often felt God's presence in my own life. If I base my belief in God off of my own experiences, why isn't that ok? My reasoning tells me I can't experience God if He isn't real. So, it's bogus for modern people to tell Christians that it's not all right to believe in God and Jesus.

Some people who claim to be Christians agree with modern people about evolution. They say we evolved from monkeys millions of years ago by pure random chance, just like the modern scientists say. They deny the Bible is God's word when it says God created us. They have substituted man's word for God's word. This is an example of how Christianity can cave in to modern pressure. These people don't realize they have traded their Christianity for modern anti-Christian ideas. They may think they are being intelligent Christians, but really they have stopped being Christians. Being a Christian in the modern world is not easy; you have to have a lot of faith. If you give up on the Bible about evolution, there is no reason to accept any of the Bible.

So, the Christian way of answering the Big Questions about life is very different from the modern way. The modern way usually doesn't give us any good answers to the Big Questions because it is looking for the answers to come from science. The Christian way looks to God for the answers. God's answers come from the Bible. When I use the Bible for my answers I find meaning for my life and I know how I should live. When I listen to modern science, I only hear that my life came about by chance and I can live any way I want to.