

A Belief Inventory

This is taken from the Participant's Guide to Alisa Childers' book, *Another Gospel?*, pages 15 – 23. She suggests that you answer these questions and keep it until the end of the study, to see if any of your answers have changed. It also gives you a clear contrast between the beliefs of historical Christianity and progressive Christianity.

Which of these statements best describes what you believe about Christianity?

- ☐ I don't doubt any of the core tenets of the Christian faith. This book study isn't really something I personally need; it's just something I'm interested in to equip me to help others.
- ☐ I'm a Christian but sometimes I have questions and doubts about core issues. I hope this study can answer some of my questions.
- ☐ My beliefs are a hodgepodge; I no longer believe a lot of what most Christians believe.

Which of these statements best fits what you believe about the Bible?

- ☐ It's the inerrant Word of God, the basis for everything I believe about God and live by.
- ☐ It documents what ancient Jews and Christians believed about God; some parts are outdated or don't apply anymore.
- ☐ It's a human book, edifying but not authoritative or inspired.

Which of these statements best fits what you believe about creation?

- ☐ Everything was created by God with a word.
- ☐ I'm open to believing that God used macroevolution to create the world.
- ☐ Scientific evidence says that everything evolved over a long period of time without divine assistance; the biblical account is an ancient way of explaining things biblical writers couldn't understand, and it shouldn't be taken literally.
- ☐ I don't know what I believe.

Which of these statements best fits what you believe about sin?

- ☐ I prefer terms like *brokenness* or *weakness* that don't sound so harsh.
- ☐ There isn't really a one-size-fits-all definition of sin; what is wrong for you might not be wrong for me.
- ☐ Sin is an offense against God that causes separation from him and is thus the biggest problem humans have, the source of all suffering.

Which of these statements best fits what you believe about absolute truth?

- ☐ The Bible is the standard for absolute truth.
- ☐ The Bible contains some truths, but isn't *the* objective standard for truth.
- ☐ The Bible is helpful, but there are no "sacred cows."
- ☐ It is arrogant to claim that any particular belief is better or worse than any other.

Which of these statements best fits what you believe about Jesus?

- ☐ He was a great religious leader.
- ☐ He is the Son of God, the Messiah promised throughout Scripture who delivers us from sin.
- ☐ I'm not sure who he was or why it matters.

Which of these statements best fits what you believe about the cross of Christ?

- ☐ It is a historical event that makes it possible for anyone who believes in Jesus to be saved for all eternity from sin and death; Jesus' death on the cross in my place makes me righteous in God's sight.
- ☐ It is a historical event, but it was only the death of a religious figure due to the powerful leaders of the day. It is a good example of forgiveness but doesn't have any significance beyond that.
- ☐ It doesn't matter if it really happened or not.

Which of these statements best fits what you believe about the resurrection of Christ?

- ☐ It was the completion of Christ's work that saves me and the foretaste of the resurrection that all believers will one day experience through him.
- ☐ It didn't happen; the disciples made it up because they couldn't face the fact that he had died.
- ☐ It doesn't matter whether it was a physical or merely a spiritual resurrection. It's what we learn from the story that matters.
- ☐ I don't know if it happened or not.