

QUESTIONS ATHEISTS ASK: WHO MADE GOD?

People who choose not to believe in God often have many questions for people who do believe in God.

We who believe God exists rightly remind atheists and agnostics that since physical things cannot create themselves, then they must have been created by a Being more powerful and intelligent than any human being. All things have a builder—except God, who built all things (Hebrews 3:4).

A common response by an unbeliever is, “If humans and all things must have a creator in order to exist, then, if God exists, who created him?” Acknowledging that no human can create himself, he claims that the same must be true of God.

The answer to this question is not complicated, nor unreasonable.

The difference is that God is not human. He is a different type of being. It is not reasonable to claim that the laws of physical things apply to a Being who is neither human nor physical.

God identified Himself as “I AM” (Exodus 3:14). Unless God told us, we could not know He always has and will exist. Of course, then the atheist will ask why he should trust the Bible—another answerable question for another time.

If you have doubts or other questions, we hope to hear from you. We welcome any sincere question.

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HOW GOD IDENTIFIED HIMSELF

Nature proves that God exists and that He is powerful (Romans 1:20). But God has revealed much more about Himself to us.

In Genesis 1:1, “Elohiym” (God) created the heavens and earth. In Genesis 17:1, God identifies Himself to Abraham as “Almighty God.” In John 17:11, Jesus prayed to “Holy Father.” In Hebrews 1:10, the Father called Jesus “LORD.” By these words, we learn more about God, and we know what to say when speaking to Him.

One of the ways that the Catholic Church identifies their pope is by calling him “Holy Father.” Do you think Jesus referred to Peter this way also? No, that title and recognition belongs to only One (Ephesians 4:6).

The Jehovah’s Witnesses deny that Jesus is Jehovah, but in Hebrews 1:10, God identifies Jesus this way. If God recognized Jesus as Jehovah, why do those who claim to be “Jehovah’s Witnesses” reject this? Because they preach another Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:4).

Would you dare pray to God and address Him as “John” or “Mother”? This would be blasphemy! Learn who God is from God Himself and determine to obey Him (Luke 6:46). If we can help you learn more about God, contact us.

HOW GOD IDENTIFIED OTHERS

As Creator, God has all “naming rights.” When He has exercised that right, we have no right to make changes.

On the sixth day of creation, God identified a certain creature as “Adam,” meaning “a human.” “Adam” identified both what type of creature he was (mankind versus animal kind), and it was a personal name.

In Genesis 17:5, God gave Abram the name “Abraham.” If Abraham decided instead to call himself Michael—would God have been pleased?

As they grew into a nation, God referred to Abraham’s descendants as the house of Jacob, the children of Israel, or Israel (Ex. 19:3, 10; Deut. 5:1). What if Israel decided to call themselves Canaanites or the children of Terah (Abraham’s father)?

In the New Testament, God calls saved people “disciples” and “Christians” (Acts 11:26). As a single group, sometimes He identifies them as the kingdom of Jesus (Col. 1:13). In smaller groups, He identifies them as churches of God or churches of Christ (2 Thess. 1:4; Rom. 16:16). By this, God identifies His people with the Savior, Jesus Christ, but today men create all kinds of new spiritual names absent from Scripture (Catholic, Protestant, Methodist, Pentecostal, etc). As Adam, Abraham, and Israel, Christians are content with what God has called them. Are you?

*If anyone speaks,
let him speak as
the oracles of God...
(1 Peter 4:11)*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: **10:00AM**
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible
Classes & Worship:
7:00 PM

A READER ASKS: DID JESUS NAME HIS CHURCH?

This question was submitted to us through our website: “Where, and when, in the Bible (book, chapter, and verse) did Jesus specifically name His church?”

1. God identified individual members of His church as Christians (Acts 11:26), disciples (Acts 11:26), and saints (Romans 1:7). Did God ever call a Christian a Catholic?

2. As a worldwide group, He specifically identified them as the kingdom of His Son and the family of God, to name a few (Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 2:19). Jesus called them *My church* (Matthew 16:18). Did God ever identify this group as the Mormon Church?

3. As local groups, He specifically called them the churches of God, the churches of Christ, or the church at ____ (physical location) (2 Thessalonians 1:4; Romans 16:16; Galatians 1:2, 22). God specifically identified the saved in multiple ways, but did He ever identify them as Lutheran or Baptist churches?

To you, we ask—does God identify His church the way you identify your church? In the Bible, God chose how to identify Himself and His people. Don’t add to that-- get back to God’s word!

Questions from this month’s articles:

1. Why is it not necessary to believe that God was created?
2. Did God say “Do not call Me John or Mother”? Does that make it right?
3. After God gave him the name “Abraham,” could he have called himself Michael? Why or why not?
4. In what ways did Jesus identify His church? Should we add to that?

- * Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
- * OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**
- * Do you have other Bible questions we can help you with? Write or call us (870 793-6700; 569-4491)
- * Visit our website WWW.QVCOC.COM for further study of various Bible subjects.