

## **Frequently Asked Questions** (and comments)

*Compiled from various conversations with Buddhist students*

1. If there are bad people in Christianity, won't this mean that there will be imperfect people in Heaven?
2. What is the purpose of our existence? Is it not to seek peace and happiness?
3. Are you trying to tell me that someone who works hard their whole life doesn't get there in the end and grace and salvation includes someone who lives a horrible life and believes in Jesus just before they die? Where is the fairness in that?
4. How does works fit into Christianity? Is there a role for works?
5. Is God just? (based on observing the injustice and sufferings of the world)
6. How can some person like Jesus just take away the sins of the whole world? It can't be that easy.
7. We don't have/need to do anything? Why isn't what we do ever enough? There's no harm in trying, isn't there?
8. Explain substitution and redemption to me.
9. What drives a Christian to do good?
10. Questions about the authority/reliability/validity of the Bible: Who wrote it? Where was it from? When was it written? Why are there so many versions? Why are some parts so difficult to understand? How do you know if it's true or not? How did they compile it if it consists of so many books? Etc...
11. How can you say that there is only one way to Heaven/to be saved? Isn't truth and knowledge subjective? There are many ways to the same end right?
12. Is there such thing as judgment before God? How are we accountable?
13. Can you prove to me that God exists?
14. The story of Christ and what He did (after watching *Passion*) – it's just a touching story right...can't be true? No one would do such a thing.
15. God exists in three persons? How can that be? Is it different manifestations? One of many OR many of one?
16. I can't understand why a person who is going to Heaven (assured) still can go on doing bad things. It's just like how you can't understand us – the fact that we try our best to do good and escape suffering.
17. How can I accept this gift so easily? There's surely something I can/should do to earn it? Or I should do something in return, right?
18. I like being around Christians because they are such nice people. But I can't become a Christian. I feel disloyal and guilty if I abandon my beliefs. It's a part of who I am, my family and my culture – just like how you can't abandon your belief.

*Other questions may be raised. You will discover more of them as you engage with your Buddhist peers and family members around you. Remember that each question asked has a specific context, purpose and underlying concern. It reflects a lot about their beliefs and uncertainties about life, faith and meaning.*