

## Faithful to Truth in an Age of Tolerance

Lesson 5: Defending the Truth, Part 2:  
*How Do We Use Evidence?*

Greg Stiekes, Bethany Bible Church: July 16, 2014

In Lesson 4, “Defending the Truth, Part 1,” we defined *truth* as “an observation we make about what is real.” Our observations can be expressed in statements called “propositions,” which can be judged true or false based on *whether or not they correspond to reality*. We do not *make* something true. Our task is merely to *recognize* what is true and what is not.

So why argue about whether or not a proposition is true? Why do people disagree? The answer comes down to *evidence* and how different people *read* or *interpret* the evidence. There are at least four questions that we must answer whenever we *contradict* another person, and all of them have to do with *evidence*.

1. Does the evidence actually exist?
2. What does the evidence prove?
3. Am I being *fair* with the evidence?
3. What theory *best* explains the evidence?

In order to demonstrate the use of evidence, we will analyze a debate that took place on March 28, 2006 between William Lane Craig and Bart D. Ehrman. The question these men are debating is, “Is there historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus?” This debate took place at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. The full debate is available online here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjOSNj97\\_gk&list=PLF2758DCC10EB65E3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjOSNj97_gk&list=PLF2758DCC10EB65E3)

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