

*God looks down from heaven on the sons of men
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.
- Psalms 53:2 (NIV)*

Why does God love an honest question?

1. Asking honest questions is not doubting; it is trusting God to allow the question, and to change you with His answer. (See **Ge 18:25**)

"...it takes more faith to ask than it takes to fear the asking. It takes faith to be ready for whatever answer comes, and faith to persevere with more questions if the answer is not understood. Asking an honest question means being ready to change in response to the answer, and short of martyrdom, change may be the ultimate act of faith." (TGAM)

2a. Honest questions prove you want to get close to God. (See **Ex 3:13-14**)

"I experience a small thrill when someone says, "May I ask you a personal question?" They have just revealed a wish to know me more deeply. It could be that God feels that thrill as well." (TGAM)

2b. Honest questions are a natural result of love (desire) for God. (See **Prov 8:17**)

In the first ripening encounters with a person who might be our one and only, we long to know all and tell all.... This overwhelming interest in every aspect of the "the one and only" is a hallmark of love at its most passionate, and another way I am created in the image of God. The Lord is the original Lover and he is deeply in love with me. That is why God longs to answer everything from the most to the least important. God knows even my silliest questions can be a sign that I am in love with him, too. (TGAM)

3. Honest questions demonstrate humility. (See **Ex 18:19**)

"...inherent in the question is the assumption that I do not have the answer; God does. Sincere questions give God respect. They acknowledge his power. They honor him." (TGAM)

4. Asking honest questions leads to knowledge of the truth, which we should share. (See **Ps 119:10-13** and **1 Peter 3:15**)

"Until I began to question God at Chever Torah, I knew what I believed, but I had only a superficial idea why I believed. Paranoia masquerading as awe kept me ignorant of the deeper truths God has commanded me to explain."(TGAM)

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(Continued)

- ▶ What is an “honest question”?
 - ✓ Honest questions are ask with no specific answer in mind; they seek the truth, not an agenda.
 - ✓ Honest questions are followed by a willingness to listen and hear the answer (even if the answer is silence—see *TGAM*, pages 26-27).
- ▶ Is it wrong to have doubts about God and Christian doctrine?
 - ✓ It depends on what we mean by “doubts.”
 - “Doubt” sometimes means “skepticism.” Skeptics are not open minded, so this kind of doubt is a barrier to learning. Skeptics do not ask honest questions.
 - But “doubt” sometimes means “uncertainty.” Those brave enough to admit uncertainty are often more willing to accept true answers than those who pretend certainty where it does not exist.
- ▶ What are some reasons why we do not ask God questions? (Hints: **Ge 3:6**, **Ps 10:4**, **Jer 2:5-6&8**, **Isa 7:10-13**)
 - ✓ We prefer to find the truth elsewhere, on our own (as if we could!).
 - ✓ We prefer easy ignorance to a truth that might require us to change.
 - ✓ We pretend a prideful knowledge of what we do not know.
 - ✓ We are angry with God.
 - ✓ We do not trust God.
 - ✓ We (wrongly) believe God prefers blind slaves to willing servants.
- ▶ Given the reasons to ask God honest questions, what will be the result if we do not actively seek to understand more about God and God’s will for us? (Hints: **Isa 30:1-2**, **Ps 119:155**, and **Isa 1:18**)
 - ✓ Life will be much harder than it needs to be.
 - ✓ We will be isolated from the Lord in at least some areas of our lives.
 - ✓ It may even stand in the way of our salvation.
- ▶ Have you been holding honest questions back from God? If so, why?

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