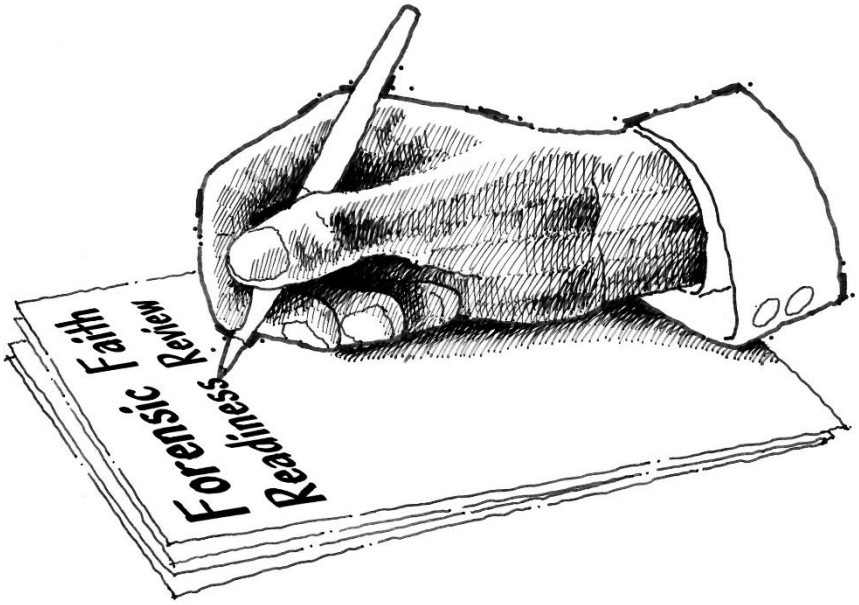
F O R E N S I C F A I T H

R e a d i n e s s R e v i e w

Like new officers, there's a time when every Christian, young or old, must be *tested*. We can either seize the opportunity to test in the controlled safety of our ministries, churches and homes, or we can lose the opportunity and allow the first test to take place in school, in the workplace or on the streets. It's our choice. If you want to take the next step as a Christian Case Maker, take this test.

The Forensic Faith Readiness Review is a simple tool to help you see if you're "ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you." This seven-question survey is designed to evaluate your strengths and weaknesses as a Christian Case Maker.



Discover Your Readiness in 21 Minutes

Answer the questions on the next seven pages. Take no more than three minutes with each question before moving on to the next page. Set a timer and do your best to respect these time limits. The entire review should only take 21 minutes. Remember, in a real conversation, you may not get much more time than this review allows. These questions are designed to reflect the most common questions and objections offered by skeptics:

Question #1: Why are you a Christian?

Question #2: What evidence do you have to believe God exists?

Question #3: Why do you trust what the Bible says about Jesus?

Question #4: Why would God send people to hell just because they don't believe in Jesus?

Question #5: If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there so much evil in the world?

Question #6: If God is the creator of everything, who created God?

Question #7: Why would a loving God command the total destruction of all of Israel's enemies (including their children and livestock)?

After answering these questions, make your own assessment about the answers you've given. Be honest with yourself:

1. Was it difficult to think of a response for each question?
2. Did you struggle to articulate an answer without simply relying on your own subjective experience?
3. While there aren't necessarily "right" or "wrong" answers for each question, some responses are definitely more persuasive than others. Do you think unbelievers would be satisfied with *your* answers, especially if they asked for objective evidence to support your claims?

For a point of comparison, you can refer to the articles linked on the "Can You Pass the Test?" page at ForensicFaithBook.com.

If you're a parent, you can give an abbreviated version of this test to your own children. We've arranged these questions in order of difficulty. Older students are certainly capable of completing the review just as it has been written, but you can shorten the number of questions to suit your own situation. If you think your elementary-aged students are up to it, you might ask them to answer the first three questions, for example, allowing 5 minutes for each answer. Better yet, ask these questions in an informal way during your next dinner conversation or trip in the car.

This brief Readiness Review will likely open your eyes to your own competency and to the readiness of the young people in your family. Don't be discouraged if you have difficulty answering the questions or are unhappy with the quality of your responses. That's the whole purpose of the review: to form a starting point from which you can begin to grow and improve. These are the kinds of questions skeptics ask and the kinds of questions young Christians struggle to answer. Many young people, when asked why they left the church in their college years, cited the difficulty they had in finding someone in their Christian community or family who could adequately answer similar objections. We need to prepare ourselves with the answers. If we want to grow as believers and make a difference in the lives of young Christians, we need to stop *teaching* and start *training*. It all starts with a test.

To learn more about how you can prepare yourself to be a better Christian Case Maker, please read *Forensic Faith: A Homicide Detective Makes the Case for a More Reasonable, Evidential Christian Faith*.