

Conversation Starters 2

The following are not meant as dogmatic statements but as thought provokers and conversation starters. Statements not directly attributed to someone belong to SMN.

1. God operates in the invisible realm, at or below the microscopic level:
 - Explains the efficacy of Kenosis,
 - Also explains the efficacy of individual human resurrections.
2. Jesus had a dual consciousness?
3. Reject Jesus and you reject the light (“the way, the truth and the life”).
4. From the ground up is how to make and remake things.
5. God expresses Himself fully in Christ – as much as humanly possible.
6. What was the best way for God to defeat sin? By introducing death, and then defeating it.
7. In Christ as image of God, God separated Himself from His creation.
8. Free will and Common Sense go together. The reality of the moment overrides the logic of cause and effect.
9. Phil. 2:10 – God exalts Jesus with a name that is above every name – Therefore, God is not a name; God the Father is not a name; Son of God is not a name; Yahweh/Jehovah is not a name. Phil. 3:21 – Subjects everything to Himself.
10. We can’t change the truth, but the truth can change us.
11. “The branch cannot once again be the root.” F. Schuon.
12. Annihilation? Denies the structure of reality – Existing in a state of non=existence is oxymoronic.
13. The decision to believe in free will or not to believe in free will is an example of human free will.
14. The willful submission of one’s will to God’s will is another example of human free will.
15. “...Not my will but thine be done.” An example of human will submitting to Divine will.
16. Christ died because people “did” and “do” sin not because they could “sin”.
17. Did God choose (or continues to choose) to exist? If not, He does not have absolute free will.

18. "Man feels the same impetus, but he realizes that he is free to acquiesce or to resist, and it is above all in the consciousness of this freedom that the spirituality of his soul is shown."
Rousseau
19. "Every form of experience, properly examined, is a potential source of wisdom." Seneca
20. "The question of truth – the truth concerning what one is, what one does, and what one is capable of doing." Nietzsche
21. Law given to Israel – a renunciation of arbitrary rules. "No man above the law." Lord God was king (first kingdom of God). All men equal in respect to the law.
22. Free Will: "Metaphysical essence of a human being." Rousseau & Kant
23. In the Arian view of the Father-Son relationship, Jesus is the perpetual juvenile.
24. "A primary obstacle to true wisdom is false confidence." J. Miller
25. The search for God is essentially a search for self; at least the part of self that connects back to God.
26. We confuse our ability to think like a God with God – and project our limitations into non-limitations for Him. To say that God knows all and does all is essentially a meaningless statement in the sense that for something to have meaning it must have lines of demarcation. We confuse our mental investigations with God.
27. Some believe in a 'Snap Your Fingers' God who has better to do than create intolerable situations that He can suddenly make tolerable – A God who knows all, does all; a God who cannot change His mind – even if He wants to.
28. If you're competing against yourself, the only approval you need is your own.
29. The whole point of life is to become self-regulating.
30. You can get a new body, but you can't get a new soul. The soul is not immortal and it's not independent, but it is permanent.
31. "To a Christian, on the basis of what the Bible teaches, not only is death abnormal, so is the cruelty of man to man. These things did not exist as God made the world." Schaeffer
32. Without something solid, there is no basis for symbols/symbolism.
33. We have the same facts, yet we draw different conclusions.

34. Idols: don't move, don't change, don't feel; don't answer prayer.
35. If Jesus is God and you don't believe He is the Deity, aren't you having a God before Him?
36. God created Humanity so He could be all-powerful and so His creation would be helpless without Him?
37. "...we have passed out of death into life." I John 3:14
38. How does the absolute relate to the non-absolute? By reducing itself – it's not a dichotomy, but a definition of reality.
39. The Symbolic Kingdom is a superimposed reality. It is also a condensed reality. It signifies meaning where meaning should be signified.
40. God doesn't need to control everything if He can fix anything.
41. In all of universal history, what entity was first to sin?
42. Being "in Christ" doesn't mean you can't sin. But it does mean not sinning is possible. (RF)
43. "Systems have the tendency to expand the reach of their own regulations.: Anon.
44. When the door is locked, there are only two avenues of ingress. Using a key or knocking the door down. The latter destroys the value of the door. The door is no longer serving a purpose.
45. A partly open door is the ideal starting point. You can have a peek before stepping through.