



Now, That's a Good Question!

R.C. Sproul

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Now That's a Good Question! answers more than 300 challenging questions about life and faith.

Sproul, a distinguished theologian and educator, address doctrinal points and contemporary issues such as euthanasia, evolution, and abortion. His answers cover over three hundred topics in a personable, easy-to-read style that's perfect for the lay person. New believers as well as those older in the faith will find this book a great resource for those challenging questions of life and faith.

Now, That's a Good Question! Details

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From Reader Review Now, That's a Good Question! for online ebook

Chad Warner says

Sproul answers many thought-provoking questions, several of which I've asked myself. Unfortunately, the answers are very brief (half a page to 2 pages), and Sproul includes few verses, making his answers sound like his informed opinions, even though I know he has a biblical basis for his answers. He has deeper answers in his other publications, and it would be nice if this book had referred the reader to those.

I don't agree with Sproul on everything, but I've learned a lot from him over the years and highly respect him as a theologian.

Below are my notes. They're taken from the book, so they represent Sproul's views, not necessarily mine.

Who Is Jesus?

"All these things" in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 could refer to destruction of Jerusalem, which happened in 1st century.

The Book of Books

Sproul looks to Augustine, Aquinas, Anselm, Luther, Calvin, Edwards for biblical interpretation.

About the testaments, Augustine said, "The Old is in the New revealed; the New is in the Old concealed."

About 75% of NT is quotation from or allusion to OT.

The Way of Salvation

"You don't get into heaven by your works, but your reward in heaven will be according to those works."

"I get into heaven by Jesus' righteousness, but my reward in heaven will be distributed according to my obedience."

Baptism isn't necessary for salvation; see thief on cross.

The reprobate won't respond to God's invitation because they don't want to. "It's their very freedom that's keeping them away from Christ. They have the freedom to choose what they desire" and they refuse Christ.

James 2:24 means that works justify a person's claim to faith before the eyes of man, not that they add to the person's justification before God.

Sin and the Sinner

The NT says at least 25 times that we'll be rewarded in heaven according to our obedience or works. Jesus frequently said that on the last day we'll be judged for all our actions, good and evil. The elect won't be punished for sin, but it will lessen our reward.

Jesus' statement to "judge not" refers to judgment as condemnation, not judgment as discernment or evaluation. The Bible often tells us to judge between good and evil, truth and lie.

The Growing Spiritual Life

Fasting is supported by OT and NT, including Jesus. Protestants pushed aside because Catholics viewed it as meritorious. We should fast in ways that allow us to be good stewards of our bodies.

Heaven and Hell

"We hope and have a certain level of confidence" that God saves children of believers who die before they can believe. God made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants. David was confident he'd see his child who died in heaven. Children are saved by grace, not due to innocence.

Church Life

In 2 Tim 2:12 "I think that what Paul is saying is that women can be involved in all kinds of functions of ministry in the church but that the role of juridical authority or of governing authority is not to be held by women. ... in certain denominations, ordination means that a person has been given governing authority."

"I am convinced that when Paul says the women are to cover their heads [in church], he is basing that action on how God created male and female. ... I'm persuaded that the principle of covering the head is still in effect because it was built into creation."

God ordained the Sabbath at Creation, so it's still in effect. God says, "This is my Sabbath unto all generations" (Exodus 31:13). NT church worships on Lord's Day (Sunday) (Heb 10:25). It requires rest from unnecessary commerce and labor. Sproul holds Continental view, seeing recreation as legitimate form of rest.

The heart of worship in the Bible is the proclamation of God's Word. Yet in the OT, worship involved all 5 senses. Modern worship should actively involve people too.

Sproul can't say for sure that pictures of Jesus violate 2nd Commandment, but has a problem with them because they may give an inaccurate image.

Marriage and Family

OT implies that polygamy is wrong. It's contrary to Creation, and was practiced by Cain's ungodly descendants (including Lamech).

The Bible doesn't specifically address the issue of a mother working outside the home. The virtuous woman of Prov 31 is a mother who does business.

Divorce is only biblical for adultery (Matt 19) and willful and irreparable separation of unbelieving spouse (1 Cor 7:15).

1 Cor 7:15 means that innocent party is free to remarry. Sproul believes guilty party can remarry if they genuinely repent.

Career Issues

There's nothing in Bible against Christians partnering with non-Christians in business. But, Christians may experience friction with non-Christians due to different priorities.

Money Matters

OT doesn't speak of prosperity as a sin; God frequently promises material well being to the obedient. Jesus spoke not against money, but against prioritizing it above the Kingdom. God can bless with prosperity those

seeking the Kingdom.

Tithing isn't explicitly repealed in NT, so it's still in effect. Since NT describes the new covenant as richer than the old, a tenth is the bare minimum.

Biblical warnings against debt are wisdom sayings, not absolute prohibitions.

The End Times

When Jesus said "this generation will not pass until all these things be done" (Matthew 24:34) He was referring to destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Lifestyle Ethics

"I would be very hesitant before imposing uniquely Christian principles upon non-Christians." Christians ought to protect 1st Amendment rights for ourselves and everyone else.

Turning the other cheek refers primarily to being insulted (backhanded slap to right cheek). Jesus meant we shouldn't be involved in bitter vindictiveness, not that we need to be doormats or can't defend ourselves.

There may be occasions when it's appropriate to lie to protect others. The Bible doesn't rebuke the Hebrew midwives, Rahab, or others who did so. Some say these people were blessed despite their lying, not for it. Lying may be legitimate to prevent evil in cases of war, murder, and other criminal acts.

Christians and Government

The government doesn't need to enforce commandments given only to Christians (such as participation in Lord's Supper). But the government should "stand for what is right" in "those spheres of ethics that are right for all people."

Governments are to be ministers of God for sake of righteousness (Rom 13). Governments must uphold righteousness and justice. In OT, God's authority went beyond Israel to heathen rulers.

Puzzling Passages

God doesn't directly punish a person for someone else's sin, but the consequences of sin can affect one's descendants (see 10 Commandments, curse on Ham).

Bevalie says

Great bible study text for groups!

Stacy Moss says

A great question and answer resource.

Sean McGowan says

Great questions along with great answers from Dr. Sproul.

Jan-ace says

The book is ultimately unsatisfying in terms of depth. It's a good resource if you want some quick answers to some common questions about Christianity, but given the amount of questions tackled and the limited space the book has, it's really difficult to give an in-depth answer to the topics tackled. If you want to really deepen your knowledge about apologetics, then read another book. This book would probably help you, though, you're someone new to the faith.

Sean says

The luxury to read through a book in its entirety is not one that everyone can afford nowadays, so certain kinds of volumes, such as reference books and question-and-answer treatments, fill a certain niche for some people.

R.C. Sproul's *Now, That's A Good Question* is a Q-and-A book meant to provide, as the late James Boice wrote, "short, sharp, satisfying answers to important biblical and theological questions" - over 300 in fact, covering all of the following topics: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the gospel, sin, faith and philosophy, prayer, spiritual growth, Satan, heaven and hell, sharing faith, church life, marriage and family, career issues, money matters, life-and-death issues, suffering, the end times, lifestyle ethics, Christians and government, and finally, puzzling Scripture passages.

The inclusion of the last section is somewhat ironic, because the book's one major shortcoming is that is that there is a lack of Scripture references. While Sproul's thoughts are undoubtedly based on the truth of the Bible, it would have been nice for him to demonstrate how they are derived from it. Still, this is a fabulous resource - especially for those who have only recently embraced the Christian faith, and those who want to review the "basics" of evangelical Christianity from a Presbyterian and Reformed perspective.

I strongly agree with this statement made by Jerry Bridges: "I'm always amazed at R.C. Sproul's ability to explain profound truths in an easy-to-understand manner. He has done it again in this book, where he tackles some difficult and controversial issues in a humble, yet insightful way."

Laura says

Really helpful. I skimmed/skipped some of the last chapters.

Doug Dale says

This was an interesting read. It's a collection of brief answers to questions posed to Sproul during his radio program. There are a wide variety of topics and it's interesting to hear his views across that broad spectrum. The answers are, at times, redundant when somewhat similar questions are asked (the questions are grouped topically which probably caused this redundancy to be more noticeable than it was when the questions were originally posed). I also wish there was more depth to some of the answers, but the format does not allow for that. I'd probably give it a 3.5 if I could, but a 3 seemed too low.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Dr. Sproul is probably one of the most knowledgeable Bible scholars I've ever read, studied or listened to. On the whole I'm greatly impressed and take what he says to heart and consider his statements and arguments.

I do disagree with some of the teachings of the branch of this Presbyterian church and I disagree with some things Dr. Sproul espouses (and should I say that to him I'm sure he'd be willing to set me straight).

This book while interesting and informative is to me ultimately unsatisfying. It will I believe be a good read for those who are looking for answers from the actual denominational point of view. This would be for (or from) the chapters on things like Christian responsibility to and in government, the Christian stand on the death penalty. He comments and answers questions on Christian living issues and so on. When we get to questions of doctrinal and theological differences the book is less complete. There is the Presbyterian take. When the question moves beyond that there is frequently a "read this other book" answer on a "we don't really know answer.

Not being of Dr. Sproul's denomination and having thought through many of these questions I was hoping for more on why he teaches and believes what he does (beyond the basic Presbyterian doctrine). I was hoping for a sort of "you're wrong and I'm right because" take on some of these questions.

Still, that's not what this book is. It's for laymen who wish answers to denominational and "Christian living" questions. On that level it works and is a pretty good book.

Brent McCulley says

In this collection of question and answers, Sproul compiled hundreds of questions and his forthwith answers from audio tapes into this massive tome for the layperson. Many of the questions are quite provocative, yet some are downright silly. Nonetheless, Sproul offers a fresh look at some of the more interesting questions that seem to still be floating around our Christian sub-culture. Not a bad read, and especially would be good for reference, given the index in the back of the book. Again, this book serves the layperson well, especially if they do not have the time or resources to research many of these questions in-depth themselves.

Jonathan says

I agreed with all but 1 or 2 of his 300 answers to common spiritual questions, and the way he writes is really accessible. Too bad his spiritual support of the invasion of Iraq and insistence that they started it with 9/11

will always taint him for me. And the fact that he hates the Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Matt says

Basic and purty good! Good reference book.

Luis Dizon says

Perhaps no other ministry active today has done more than Ligonier Ministries to take Christian theology and package it in a format that is easily accessible to the average layperson. R. C. Sproul has written many wonderful works detailing various aspects of Christian doctrine and practice, with such classics as *The Holiness of God*, *Chosen by God*, *Knowing Scripture*, and more recently, *Everyone's a Theologian*.

This work is an excellent supplement to these works. Drawing from years of answering questions via radio and other formats, Sproul answers many of the most common queries that Christians and non-Christians alike may have regarding the faith. Although it is neither a work of systematic theology nor of apologetics, it manages to combine elements of both, as well as cover such practical issues as marriage and family life, as well as Christian involvement in politics. This book does this in a conversational format that really makes it feel like the author is speaking directly to the reader's concerns.

Now That's a Good Question! is the kind of tome most laypeople and pastors should have on hand in order to get a quick answer to common questions regarding the faith. At the same time, I would recommend Sproul's other works as well, as they provide more in-depth answers to many of the questions posed within this book but are answered only in a few pages.

Brian says

I love this book and actually gave it away to a person I was sharing the gospel with because it answers so many questions that people have about God and Christianity. If my memory serves me Dr. Sproul addresses other religions as well.

Part of Dr. Sproul's genius is the ability to speak to common folk. This book is a must have for the new Christian.

Laura Franks says

A great book to have to answer questions you might get asked concerning Biblical beliefs from a reformed view.
