

SO MANY QUESTIONS
***Question 8: If the Bible is so clear,
why can't Christians agree on what it says?***

Think about it

1. What kind of question is this?
 - a. Knowing (needing evidence)
 - b. Meaning (knowing what 'the truth' about God is)
 - c. Living (moral issues / how we ought to live)

2. What are some of the reasons someone might have for asking this question?

3. How would you go about answering this question? Jot down the kinds of things you think could be included in an answer.

Summarize your answer

In your own words, using three or four simple points, write down how you would answer the question "If the Bible is so clear, why can't Christians agree on what it says?"

Do not turn page over until after you complete this side! 😊

For further thought:

If the Bible is so clear, why can't Christians agree on what it says?

- Christians do disagree on some things, but the reality is that, for millions of Christians, there is an incredibly high level of agreement about what the Bible says.
- What the Bible teaches about God, the problem of human rebellion against God, the reality of judgement, that Jesus is both the Christ and God come in the flesh, the central place of Jesus' death and resurrection, what it means to receive new life through him –these are all areas where Christians everywhere stand together.
- There are also differences, but this does not mean that the Bible is unclear. The vast majority of the time, the Bible is no more difficult to understand than the daily newspaper.
- Very often disagreements come about because people have stopped listening to the Bible and are paying more attention to their own opinions, their particular group's traditions or what they feel is right. In those cases, the disagreements are not because the Bible is unclear, but because people are ignoring what it says and are concentrating on something else.

Other approaches

- When Christians say that the Bible is clear, we don't mean that every part of the Bible is equally clear. Not every sentence or paragraph is simple. But the central themes are very clear: God, sin, judgment, salvation only being possible because of God's mercy, who Jesus is and the significance of what he did, and so on. These topics are addressed often and consistently.
- When Christians say that the Bible is clear, we don't mean that it makes clear to us everything we want to know. The Bible is silent on many questions we might have, or it only provides partial information. But the Bible *does* contain everything we need to know God truly, and to know how we ought to relate to him and please him.