

Kareem, a foreign doctoral student, was my teacher in an advanced college math class. He and I occasionally spoke before class and he was intrigued to find out that my undergraduate degree was in 'Bible and Religion.' Upon arriving early to class one day, Kareem sauntered over to my desk and said with a grin, "You know, I can prove that God does not exist."

I quickly responded, "And I would expect that you can also prove that God DOES exist."

His eyes lit up and he fired back, "So what does that tell you about God?"

"He is not subject to human proof," I said.

Kareem seemed quite satisfied with the whole exchange and I was glad that I had not embarrassed myself.

As for Kareem, he was quite an accomplished mathematician and his 'proof' was simply based on human logic. His purpose was to comment on the absurdity of trying to prove or disprove God by mathematical reasoning or human logic.

However, some have misused this kind of reasoning to deceive the naïve and unsuspecting.

Recall the way that Satan approached Jesus with the first temptation:

**If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. —Matthew 4:3**

Who said that turning stones to bread proved one to be the Son of God? Satan made a logical connection where none existed. Deceiver.

You may remember how some Jews plotted against Jesus to trap him. They asked whether it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. If Jesus answered, "Yes," then he would be siding with the Roman government and turn the people against him. Yet, to answer, "No," would be to position himself against Rome. Testers.

A modern-day writer posed a series of very difficult questions about a controversial issue in the church. His questions were meant to tear down teachings from the past and usher in a more *enlightened* approach. Though the questions might have been difficult, they did not change the simple teachings in scripture. Questioner.

A popular speaker posed the question, "What if Mary was not a virgin." He went on to talk about translation issues in Old Testament prophecy and whether the prophecy was really meant to convey the idea that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. He wondered with doubt whether the Jews expected a virgin birth. Curiously, Matthew still plainly indicated that the virgin birth fulfilled *that* prophecy. Doubter.

The deceiver, tester, questioner, and doubter all have one thing in common: They are scoffers who have little regard for God's word. Through their wordcraft they create clouds of doubt where none existed before.

Through human rationalization some think they have out-witted God to create 'gray areas' in His word that do not exist. They have confused clear teachings regarding sin and righteousness in order to justify their desires. Do not be fooled. Just because a person can ask tough questions, create doubt, rationalize, and/or make straightforward teachings *fuzzy* does not make them right.

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.**

**In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.**

**Do not be wise in your own eyes;**

**Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.**

**—Proverbs 3:5-7**

Mark Stinnett