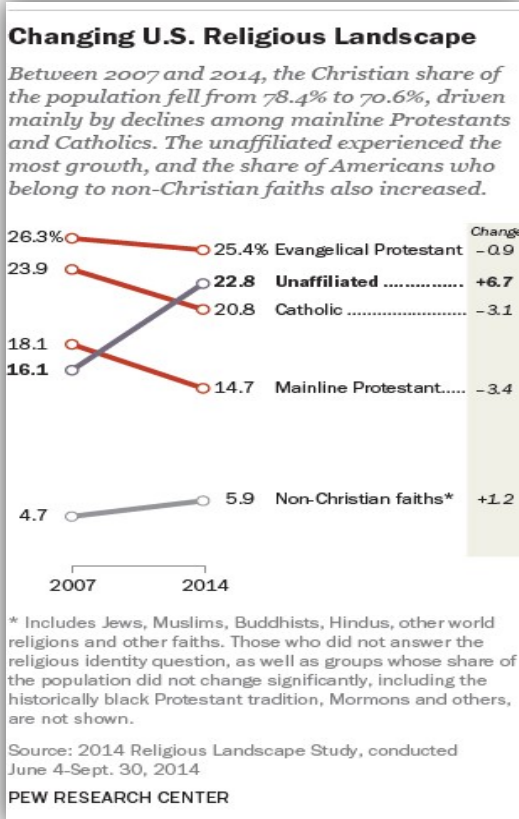


# The Case for Christianity

## Resource Materials and Questions



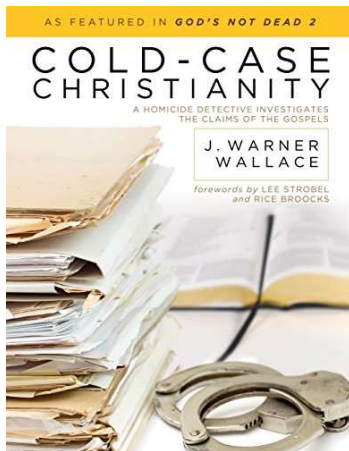
## Unaffiliated Make Up Growing Share Across Generations

*% of each generation that identifies current religion as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular*

	2007	2014	Change
Silent generation (b. 1928-1945)	9	11	+2
Baby Boomers (b.1946-1964)	14	17	+3
Generation X (b. 1965-1980)	19	23	+4
Older Millennials (b. 1981-1989)	25	34	+9
Younger Millennials (b. 1990-1996)	n/a	36	n/a

2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. All changes are statistically significant.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



## Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels

by J. Warner Wallace (Author), Lee Strobel (Foreword)

Written by an L. A. County homicide detective and former atheist, Cold-Case Christianity examines the claims of the New Testament using the skills and strategies of a hard-to-convince criminal investigator.

Christianity could be defined as a “cold case”: it makes a claim about an event from the distant past for which there is little forensic evidence. In Cold-Case Christianity, J. Warner Wallace uses his nationally recognized skills as a homicide detective to look at the evidence and eyewitnesses behind Christian beliefs. Including gripping stories from his career and the visual techniques he developed in the courtroom, Wallace uses illustration to examine the powerful evidence that validates the claims of Christianity.

**From the Author ...** I wrote Cold-Case Christianity because the historic truth claims of Christianity are under attack from every direction. If ever there was a time to study the case for the eyewitness reliability of the gospels, the time is now:

- **Anti-Christian Books Are Increasingly Influential:** Books like Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion*, Christopher Hitchens' *God is Not Great*, Sam Harris' *Letter To A Christian Nation*, and Bart Ehrman's *Forged: Writing in the Name of God - Why the Bible's Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are* have influenced millions of readers and challenged the essential truth claims of the gospel accounts.
- **Fewer People Identify Themselves As Christians:** The number of people who identify themselves as Christians in America, for example, has decreased by over 10% in the past 20 years (American Religious Identification Survey 1990-2008)
- **Young People Are Leaving the Church in Record Numbers:** As many as 70% of those who identify themselves as Christians entering college will walk away from their faith by the time they are seniors and only about a third of these young people will ever return to the Church (LifeWay Research Study 2007)
- **Intellectual Skepticism Is a Growing Problem:** When young ex-Christians are asked about their reasons for leaving, the largest percentage identify intellectual skepticism or doubt as the culprit (Smith and Denton, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*, 2005)
- **The Claims of the Gospels Are Under Attack:** When surveyed, young members of the church are less and less convinced that the gospel accounts are reliable. 63% don't believe that Jesus is the Son of the one true God. 51% don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead (Josh McDowell, *The Last Christian Generation*, 2006)

#### **Product Details**

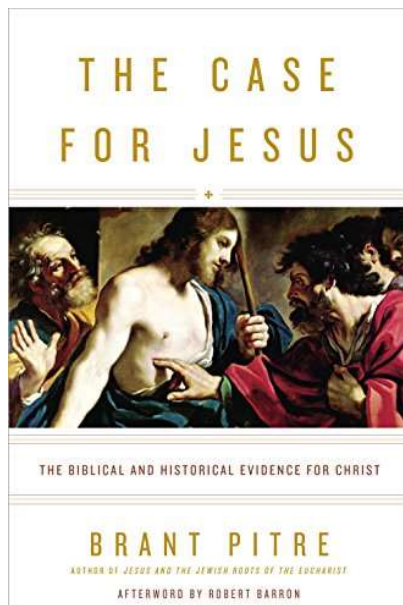
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#### **The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ Hardcover – February 2, 2016**

by Brant Pitre (Author), Robert Barron (Afterword)

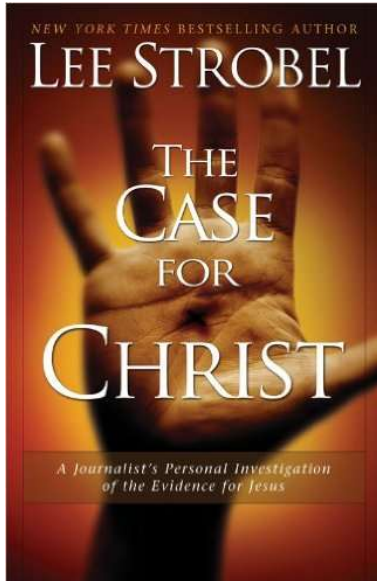
For well over a hundred years now, many scholars have questioned the historical truth of the Gospels, claiming that they were originally anonymous. Others have even argued that Jesus of Nazareth did not think he was God and never claimed to be divine. In *The Case for Jesus*, Dr. Brant Pitre, the bestselling author of *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*, goes back to the sources—the biblical and historical evidence for Christ—in order to answer several key questions, including:

- Were the four Gospels really anonymous?
- Are the Gospels folklore? Or are they biographies?
- Were the four Gospels written too late to be reliable?
- What about the so-called “Lost Gospels,” such as “Q” and the Gospel of Thomas?

- Did Jesus claim to be God?
- Is Jesus divine in all four Gospels? Or only in John?
- Did Jesus fulfill the Jewish prophecies of the Messiah?
- Why was Jesus crucified?
- What is the evidence for the Resurrection?

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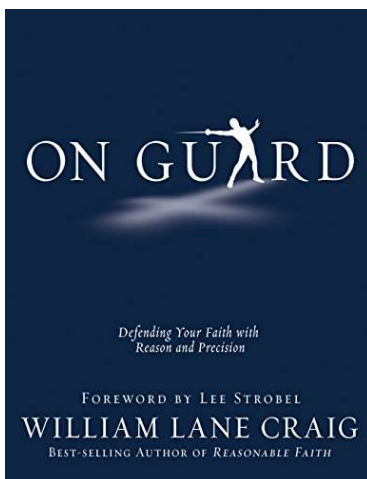
### **The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus**

by Lee Strobel (Author)

Is there credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God? Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools like Cambridge, Princeton, and Brandies who are recognized authorities in their fields. Strobel challenges them with questions like How reliable is the New Testament? Does evidence exist for Jesus outside the Bible? Is there any reason to believe the resurrection was an actual event? Strobel's tough, point-blank questions make this remarkable book read like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it's not fiction. It's a riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure. What will your verdict be in The Case for Christ?

#### **Product Details**

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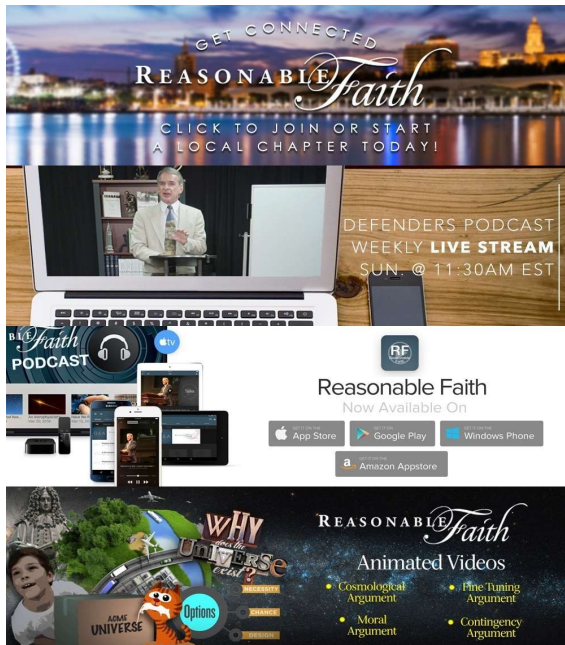
### **On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision**

by William Lane Craig (Author), Lee Strobel (Foreword)

This concise guide is filled with illustrations, sidebars, and memorable steps to help Christians stand their ground and defend their faith with reason and precision. In his engaging style, Dr. Craig offers four arguments for God's existence, defends the historicity of Jesus' personal claims and resurrection, addresses the problem of suffering, and shows why religious relativism doesn't work. Along the way, he shares his story of following God's call in his own life.

This one-stop, how-to-defend-your-faith manual will equip Christians to advance faith conversations deliberately, applying straightforward, cool-headed arguments. They will discover not just what they believe, but why they believe—and how being on guard with the truth has the power to change lives forever.

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[WWW.REASONABLEFAITH.ORG](http://WWW.REASONABLEFAITH.ORG)

REASONABLE *Faith*  
with William Lane Craig

. . . Providing an Articulate, Intelligent Voice in Defending  
Biblical Christianity in the Public Square

## Questions for Discussion:

1. What would you say to someone that says New Testament scripture is untrustworthy and akin to fairy tales?
2. It is important to recognize what our goal is when studying and practicing apologetics. What do you believe the goal of apologetics to be? Why is it important to clearly establish the goal of apologetics with non-believers before engaging them with this subject matter?
3. Some in the church feel that the inability to accept Christ and the truthfulness of Christianity reflects a condition of the heart, not a condition of the head. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think so many students abandon their faith during, or just after high school? Who or what is to blame for this?
5. The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15: 14: "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." Why does Paul call the resurrection of Jesus the very linchpin of the Christian faith?
6. In Mark 8: 31– 33 it is clear the Apostles do not understand what Christ means when he says The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days

rise again. In fact, Peter goes so far as to rebuke Christ for saying this. Why do you think it was so difficult for the Apostles to understand and accept what Christ was teaching them?

7. Why would Christ's crucifixion be so devastating to his apostles? Why after his death, would their willingness to proclaim him as the Messiah and die for that belief be so powerful?
8. Which of the lines of evidence for Christianity in this series did you find most convincing personally? How do you think non-Christians you know would respond to these various lines of evidence? Which do you feel would be most compelling for them?