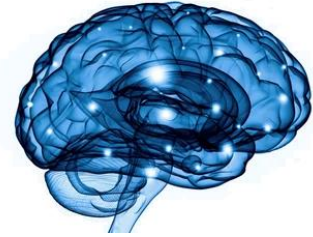


Check Your Thinking

Since NONE of us has perfect understanding about everything, how do we know that our own presuppositions and ideas are true is true?



What can we do to check our own thinking?

✓ Test #1

Are we living in an _____ where everyone things almost exactly the same way about most everything important?
How often do I interact and really listen to people who believe differently than I believe?

At least in the area Christian doctrine and beliefs, there are a couple of additional and specific tests we can apply to ourselves:

✓ Test #2

Are we fairly and directly handling the passages and arguments that our opponents would bring up, or are we dismissing them OR ignoring them?

Examples:

The Pre-trib Rapture and Matthew 24:29-31

TULIP and Calvinism and... well... the entire Bible 😊

✓ Test #3

Are we majoring in the _____ to achieve our position?
Or are we emphasizing the things that the Bible emphasizes?

Good Examples:

We emphasize the _____ because that is what Jesus and the Apostles emphasized in the Gospels, in Acts and the Epistles.

Counter-Example:

There is a movement among some Christians to insist that Jesus' name must be said in Hebrew at baptism and in prayer, or it does not work. Where is the Bible for that? Jesus' name was translated into Greek in the epistles including when it was prescribed as the formula for baptism.

✓ **Test #4**

Are we using and accepting non-Biblical language to define our beliefs that cannot be clearly identified and easily explained in scripture?

Examples:

The Bible never uses the word rapture. Should we use the word rapture?

The Bible never uses the phrase “Fully God, fully man”, but Christians do.

Is there anything wrong with this or with saying Jesus had a dual-nature?

In the topic of the Trinity, most Christians believe that God is a Triune being comprised of three persons sharing one substance and that Jesus is the second person of the Trinity, where all persons are co-equal, co-existent and co-eternal.

How many places in scripture say God is three persons? _____

How many places in scripture say God is more than 1 person? _____

How many places in scripture say Jesus is the 2nd person? _____

How many places in scripture use the number three in relation in any way to God’s character or identity? _____

How many places in scripture teach co-equal persons? _____

How many places in scripture use the word person connected with God’s nature? _____

✓ **Test #5**

If you run into a disagreement and you have to decide between philosophical positions or Christ, which does the Bible tell us to pursue?

Colossians 2:8-9 KJV

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.