

Four important questions

Two different answers

<u>The four most important questions for every human being</u>	<u>Answers given by naturalistic humanism</u>	<u>Answers given by God in His word</u>	<u>Scripture references</u>
Who am I ?	A intelligent primate or a clever monkey	A person, created by the triune, personal God in His own image and known to Him by name	Genesis 1:26,27 John 10:3, Daniel 12:1
Where did I come from ?	I was the result of chance, through chemical reactions in the material world	I was 'fearfully and wonderfully made' by God, who foreknew me in love, even before I was born	Psalm 139:14 Psalm 139:15,16
Why am I here ?	No particular purpose	So that I can be adopted by God through His Son Jesus Christ and receive eternal life.	Ephesians 1:4,5 John 3:16
Where am I going ?	When my body dies it will return to the ground and that will be the end	By faith in Christ I can be saved from perishing, and can go to be with Jesus in the Father's house	John 3:16 John 14:2-4
<u>The soul's response to these answers</u> >	disappointment, anger, fear, despair	To those who repent and believe God gives his gifts of faith, hope and love	Colossians 1:4,5

That your joy may be full

After Jesus had been teaching his disciples at the last supper he said to them,

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that you joy may full.” John 15:11

Jesus' joy is to be the Son of the Father for

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. John 3:35

If your understanding of life is bringing you only disappointment, fear and a sense of hopelessness, it is because the answers you have believed to your most important questions have been other than the answers that your heavenly Father gives to these questions.

Faith, hope, love and joy are not only good if you are fortunate enough to find them. They are in fact essential for human beings to be who they were created to be. Faith, hope, love and joy are as important to our souls as air, water and food are to our bodies.

I invite you to believe God's answers to your most important questions, and to speak to your heavenly Father in the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank you for planning in love to have an eternal family.

I thank you that you created us in your own image so that we may know you and be your eternal children.

I thank you that you sent your beloved Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our lostness and sin, and to bring us back to yourself.

I thank you that you have given me faith

to believe your answers to my most important questions,

to give up my rebellion and turn back to you,

and to put my trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of my sins.

I thank you that, as I trust in Jesus, he will give me your holy Spirit to dwell in me, and will bring me to the Father's house.

I thank you for the joy that Jesus has in being your eternal Son, and that his joy is now in me and my joy is now complete. Amen

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Four important questions - two different answers

For many years we had a little dog called Jonty. As far as I could tell, there were only three questions that Jonty was interested in having answered:

1. Where is the food?
2. Where is a comfortable place to lie down? (which is warm in winter or cool in summer)
3. And when are we going to play?

For a dog happiness seems to lie in the answers to these questions, and Jonty seemed to have no deeper searching questions about life.

By contrast we human beings have some deeper questions which we not only ask, but which we need satisfactory answers to in order have deep and lasting joy in our lives.

These questions are:

1. Who am I ?
2. Where did I come from ?
3. Why am I here ?
4. Where am I going ?

On the centre spread of this leaflet I have set these questions out, and with them two quite different sets of answers. These two sets of answers invoke quite different responses in the human soul.