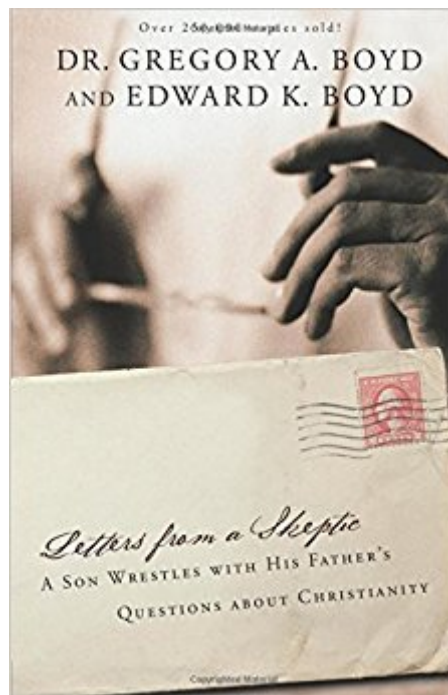




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Letters From A Skeptic: A Son Wrestles With His Father's Questions About Christianity



Synopsis

Greg Boyd and his father, Ed, were on opposite sides of a great divide. Greg was a newfound Christian, while his father was a longtime agnostic. So Greg offered his father an invitation: Ed could write with any questions on Christianity, and his son would offer a response. Letters from a Skeptic contains this special correspondence. The letters tackle some of today's toughest challenges facing Christianity, including Do all non-Christians go to hell? How can we believe a man rose from the dead? Why is the world so full of suffering? How do we know the Bible was divinely inspired? Does God know the future? Each response offers insights into the big questions, while delivering intelligent answers that connect with both the heart and mind. Whether you're a skeptic, a believer, or just unsure, these letters can provide a practical, common-sense guide to the Christian faith.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: David C. Cook; 31558th edition (June 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1434799808

ISBN-13: 978-1434799807

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 541 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #27,643 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Apologetics](#) #423 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology](#)

Customer Reviews

Edward Boyd's agnosticism rested "not ... too much on any positive position ... but rather on a host of negative ones" about Christianity. In an attempt to address these negative issues, his son Greg, a professor of theology, asked his father, a strong-willed, highly intelligent, and stubborn 70-year-old, to enter into a correspondence in which "all of their cards would be laid on the table." Greg would give his father the opportunity to raise all his objections to the veracity of Christianity, and Greg would "answer these objections as well as give positive grounds for holding to the Christian faith." Three years and more than 30 letters later, Letters from a Skeptic was published and Edward Boyd came to accept Christ. During his journey, he and his son hash through such topics as why the world is so full of suffering; why an all-powerful God needs prayer; how you can believe in someone

who rose from the dead; and how another man's death can pardon others. Despite their brutal honesty, both men exhibit respect and love toward one another as they address these volatile subjects. In Edward's second response to Greg, he boldly says, "Well, your distinction between the 'Christian Church' and 'Christians' is interesting and novel, but frankly, I don't buy it." Greg responds, saying, "I've got to admit that you are raising some extremely good points in your letters. You are raising the most difficult questions a theist can face." --Jill Heatherly

I loved this book. As a "Christian" who was a "backslider" for a number of years and recently (5 years ago) discovered a true faith, I find I am hungry for any and all books which help me to understand what and Who I have been missing. I rejoiced with the son who helped his father find Jesus and I had tears several times for the father who struggled so hard not to believe. I wanted to shout Amen and Hallelujah a few times as well. I have purchased additional copies of this book to share with a few friends and family who came to mind while I was reading and even though I originally purchased this as an ebook I also bought a hard copy for myself as I want a book to refer to when I find myself with a question. Thank you, Dr. Boyd, for sharing this very personal correspondence. I am in your debt.

I bought this book for my 17-year old son who had many questions about the Christian faith. His questions were so thoughtful, I was not sure if I could give him an answer that would do his question justice. This book is perfect. You can read just the chapters that contain any questions you might have, but you are probably going to want to read the whole thing.

A great book that I am giving to my sons to read. They are used to reading web pages, so the short chapters is very friendly to the new generation. It is the best apologetic book I have found, and that is my life's passion.

I was highly encouraged by this book. I like the short chapters broken up by correspondence. This book allows for a fluid discussion of the questions many non-believers and believers wrestle with. Even though this book focuses on areas of belief it also connects on relationship with God. It touched my heart, and I may have even had a few tears at the end.

Yes this is a book for skeptics, but also a book for believers. Greg gives insightful answers that believers can use in witnessing to others. In answering his 77 year old dad's questions, he leads

him on an incredible journey to faith and demonstrates that it's never too late for God to claim a soul for his own. This book will inspire you to witness with hope.

I will admit upfront I am a Christian, but I had a very long spell in my life where I was quite skeptical about God, the Bible, Christianity, Jesus, etc. As a person who has studied a lot of philosophy, I still carry some skepticism of aspects of the Faith. This book does a very good job making an argument to dispel or counter many of the common objections to Christianity and does it very well. His arguments and points are well written and make his points very well. The reason I can't give it 5 stars is that the narrative style was just a little heavy-handed to me. The format of being letters to his fathers feels a little fake. I'm not saying that it's totally made up, but definitely feels heavily edited to fit the flow of the arguments, and in doing so, makes it a little trite and cliché. That being said, it's not enough to overwhelm the "meat" of the book which is the arguments themselves.

Briefly, this is a great intro book to the tough theological questions that very much percolate within the collective consciousness of our postmodern generations. The book comes at these questions from an evangelical view and even more specifically from Dr. Boyd's openness theology view, [...] He makes mostly compelling arguments that get the reader thinking, which to me is the mark of a good book. The format of letter exchange with his father is what I think makes the book unique and valuable because it frames a skeptic's questions in an accessible way, but not fluffy (hard core atheists will disagree, but this is not a book representing an atheist; it is a book representing someone who is honestly wrestling with the intellectual difficulties of Christianity, but open still open to it). I recommend getting this book if you are a skeptic, if you are a beginner Christian apologist, or if you want an intro to openness theology.

This book allows you to understand God more intimately and intellectually through the author's down to earth responses to his unbelieving father's tough questions about the Christian faith. Reading through the table of contents, I was saying to myself, "Whew, that's a tough question...hope there's a good answer." Of course, God is good and He doesn't change, but He isn't offended by our tough questions. Read this book, you'll truly enjoy it and your faith will grow. And you'll have a better answer when people ask you tough questions. I have probably given away a couple dozen of these books.

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