

## A Belief Inventory

This is taken from the Participant's Guide to Alisa Childers' book, *Another Gospel?*, pages 15 – 23. She suggests that you answer these questions and keep it until the end of the study, to see if any of your answers have changed. It also gives you a clear contrast between the beliefs of historical Christianity and progressive Christianity.

### Which of these statements best describes what you believe about Christianity?

- I don't doubt any of the core tenets of the Christian faith. This book study isn't really something I personally need; it's just something I'm interested in to equip me to help others.
- I'm a Christian but sometimes I have questions and doubts about core issues. I hope this study can answer some of my questions.
- My beliefs are a hodgepodge; I no longer believe a lot of what most Christians believe.

### Which of these statements best fits what you believe about the Bible?

- It's the inerrant Word of God, the basis for everything I believe about God and live by.
- It documents what ancient Jews and Christians believed about God; some parts are outdated or don't apply anymore.
- It's a human book, edifying but not authoritative or inspired.

### Which of these statements best fits what you believe about creation?

- Everything was created by God with a word.
- I'm open to believing that God used macroevolution to create the world.
- Scientific evidence says that everything evolved over a long period of time without divine assistance; the biblical account is an ancient way of explaining things biblical writers couldn't understand, and it shouldn't be taken literally.
- I don't know what I believe.

### Which of these statements best fits what you believe about sin?

- I prefer terms like *brokenness* or *weakness* that don't sound so harsh.
- There isn't really a one-size-fits-all definition of sin; what is wrong for you might not be wrong for me.
- Sin is an offense against God that causes separation from him and is thus the biggest problem humans have, the source of all suffering.

**Which of these statements best fits what you believe about absolute truth?**

- The Bible is the standard for absolute truth.
- The Bible contains some truths, but isn't *the* objective standard for truth.
- The Bible is helpful, but there are no "sacred cows."
- It is arrogant to claim that any particular belief is better or worse than any other.

**Which of these statements best fits what you believe about Jesus?**

- He was a great religious leader.
- He is the Son of God, the Messiah promised throughout Scripture who delivers us from sin.
- I'm not sure who he was or why it matters.

**Which of these statements best fits what you believe about the cross of Christ?**

- It is a historical event that makes it possible for anyone who believes in Jesus to be saved for all eternity from sin and death; Jesus' death on the cross in my place makes me righteous in God's sight.
- It is a historical event, but it was only the death of a religious figure due to the powerful leaders of the day. It is a good example of forgiveness but doesn't have any significance beyond that.
- It doesn't matter if it really happened or not.

**Which of these statements best fits what you believe about the resurrection of Christ?**

- It was the completion of Christ's work that saves me and the foretaste of the resurrection that all believers will one day experience through him.
- It didn't happen; the disciples made it up because they couldn't face the fact that he had died.
- It doesn't matter whether it was a physical or merely a spiritual resurrection. It's what we learn from the story that matters.
- I don't know if it happened or not.