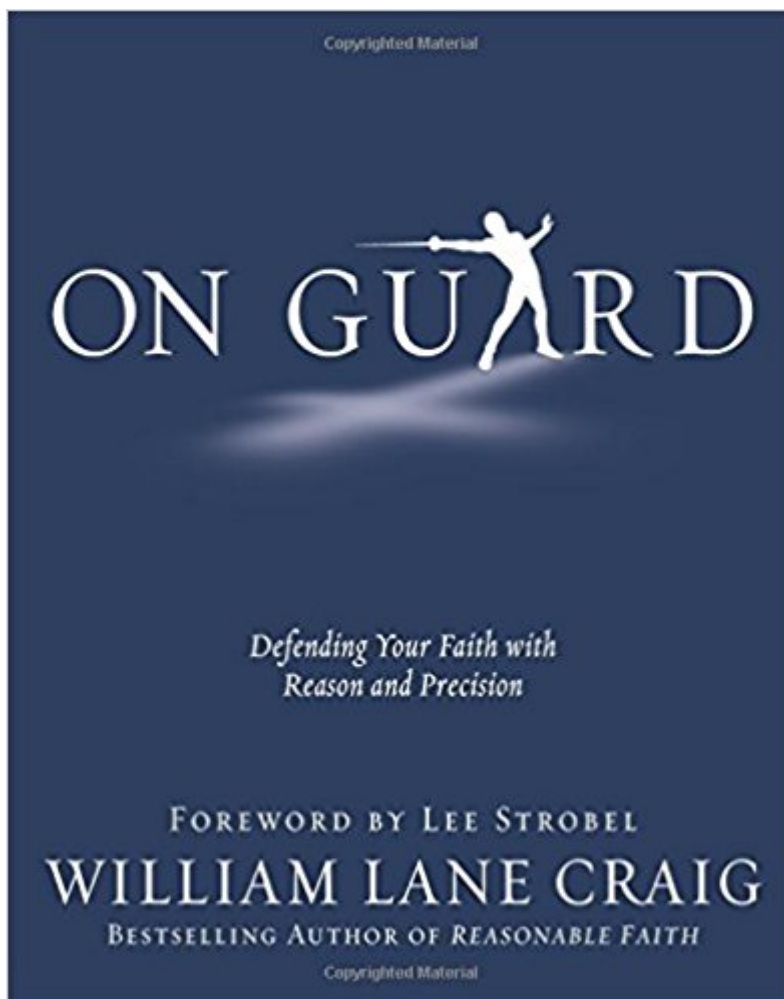


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On Guard: Defending Your Faith With Reason And Precision



Synopsis

Renowned scholar William Lane Craig offers a readable, rich training manual for defending the Christian faith. 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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Customer Reviews

"In these pages, you'll learn the most compelling arguments in favor of Christianity. Not only that, but you'll also find out how to respond to the most popular objections to those arguments. You'll discover that On Guard is solidly factual, winsomely personal, consistently practical, and ultimately convincing in its presentation of the case for Christianity." (Lee Strobel 2010-03-01) "There is probably no greater defender of the Christian faith alive today than William Lane Craig. On Guard is Craig's introduction to the wealth of information, logic, and evidence that powerfully point to the truth of our Christian beliefs."

Read it to deepen your own faith and to embolden your confidence in sharing that faith with others. (Mark Mittelberg 2010-03-01)

“On Guard is an excellent summation of how the Christian faith makes sense of the real world in which we all live. Speaking the truth in love, once again William Lane Craig proves we don’t have to be abrasive to be persuasive. (Jim Thomas 2010-03-01)

“William Lane Craig is arguably one of the finest Christian philosophers of our time. His knowledge and skill have placed him on platforms on every continent, engaging the most notable skeptics in dialogue and debate. (Ravi Zacharias 2010-03-01)

“It is hard to overstate the impact that William Lane Craig has had for the cause of Christ. He is simply the finest Christian apologist of the last half century, and his academic work justifies ranking him among the top 1 percent of practicing philosophers in the Western world. Besides that, he is a winsome ambassador for Christ, an exceptional debater, and a man with the heart of an evangelist. I know him well and can say that he lives a life of integrity and lives out what he believes. I do not know of a single thinker who has done more to raise the bar of Christian scholarship in our generation than Craig. He is one of a kind and I thank God for his life and work. (J. P. Moreland 2010-03-01)

Do you worry that someone will ask you a question about your faith that you can’t answer? Have you tried to learn how to defend your faith but gotten lost in confusing language and theology? Do you struggle with times of spiritual doubt yourself? This concise training manual by renowned scholar William Lane Craig is filled with illustrations, sidebars, and memorable steps to help you stand your ground and defend your 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 own story of following God’s call. This one-stop, how-to-defend-your-faith manual will equip you to advance faith conversations deliberately, applying straightforward, cool-headed arguments. You will discover not just what you believe, but why you believe – and how being on guard with the truth has the power to change lives forever.

I read this book about 2 weeks ago, and it is nothing short of what I expected: that is, a book that would practically yet powerfully make arguments for the existence of God and - more importantly - gateway into the person of Jesus Christ. Theism is the richest worldview not because it adds the greatest quantity of explanations (indeed, gods like Zeus or Thor or Allah fail to add any

explanation) - but because it offers one explanation: the person of Jesus Christ; by Him, the personable attachment of theism is enabled. This book therefore brings us first into the logical possibility of theism by grounding arguments, simply put, in God. The reader will essentially learn why the theistic worldview is most coherent in general. Afterwards, the final chapters will speak on the person of Jesus Christ to make a "fully" coherent view. Without a personal deity, theism simply becomes empty, like a well that cannot supply water: Deism. However, holding to Deism after reading this book will almost certainly make little sense. The arguments alone from the cosmological argument provide us with erudite reason to believe the cause before us was, as well, personal. Indeed, the entire argument before the Christian chapters in this book point towards a personal deity in general. Consequently, we are left with the choice of picking up 4 different sponges to clear up the black sludge on the window of reality after reading this book. 1) We may choose to pick up the water-less sponge of atheism and find ourselves with no success in our attempt. 2) Or we may pick up the agnostic sponge and find ourselves able to clear up only half of the window. 3) We may even boldly pick up the deistic sponge and clear 3 quarters of the window. 4) But only will we have enough soapy water in the theistic sponge to clear up the entire window of reality. And once we do that, we will undoubtedly find not only God's image in the window but, as well, Jesus Christ's. This is arguably the greatest friend-sharing friendly and user-reading friendly book I've read on Christian apologetics. You'll remember many things to apply in real-world discussion. It helped me with many of my own doubts.

On Guard does two things very well: (1) Prepare Christians with mature, well-developed arguments that properly defend the existence of God (2) Educate Christians who have never seriously thought about some of the peripheral philosophical and existential questions surrounding their faith. In the end, On Guard succeeds in making you feel confident about your beliefs and thus eager to engage others. As Craig excels in explaining, Christianity is not based on "blind faith" but makes perfect rational and logical sense in the world in which we all live. The book is roughly divided into three parts: the first two sections tend to work outside of the Bible and detail arguments for the existence of God from the stance of reason and philosophy. Here, Craig searches for answers to existential questions (e.g. Why does anything exist? Why did the universe begin? What about suffering?). These questions weigh evidence and tend to rely on science and logic alone. The final part works from within the Bible and provides historical and academic defenses for some of the Bible's central truth claims including the existence of a historical Jesus and evidences of the resurrection. In the first two parts of On Guard,

the author makes his arguments by analyzing premises that support a conclusion. While this makes perfect logical sense, everyday people tend not to converse this way so a reader may afterwards find themselves unloading the arguments and breaking them down in more relatable ways. In a more formal academic debate, however, the way these arguments are presented may work perfectly. And from a personal standpoint, in a few instances the author will veer off into theology and make some claims that are debatable. Neither of these reservations take away from the power of the central thrust of the book. Christians need at a minimum a clear and systematic way to defend and articulate what they believe and why. On Guard is not a one-stop solution but is a legitimate first step in the process that will equip you with the tools you need to engage in an informed, intelligent debate.

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