



Can Man Live Without God

Ravi Zacharias

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In this brilliant and compelling defense of the Christian faith, Ravi Zacharias shows how affirming the reality of God's existence matters urgently in our everyday lives. According to Zacharias, how you answer the questions of God's existence will impact your relationship with others, your commitment to integrity, your attitude toward morality, and your perception of truth.

Can Man Live Without God Details

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Author : Ravi Zacharias

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From Reader Review Can Man Live Without God for online ebook

Brian says

I'm inclined to give it 5 stars because I read this shortly after my conversion to Christianity and it had such an impact.

Mwrogers says

Dr. Ravi Zacharias is an excellent Christian apologist. If I were smarter and could have followed all of his arguments, I would have rated this book 5 stars. He definitely has a unique perspective, with his Eastern background. He's probably the CS Lewis of our generation.

Matt says

Great critique of unbelieving philosophy and apologetics that make the heart sing!

Sean says

Zacharias' logical approach to the argument for Christianity is brilliant and accessible. His writing is focused on not only people who are seeking to understand Christianity, but it is also written for people who think they have all that is wrong with Christianity nailed down. His argument covers philosophy and Scripture, giving it a grounded perspective. Zacharias does not have everything figured out, by any means, but his explanations of what some many people find illogical are sound and thorough.

I recommend this book to anyone with questions about Christianity, but especially for Christians who need some intellectual stimulation.

Sergio Flores says

This book shows how devastating it is when you remove God from the picture and all the things we take for granted that are grounded and are present solely because God is there. This is Ravi at one of his best points, I love this book and would recommend it to others. The only down side to this book is the diction, I found myself looking at a dictionary more than I have for any other Ravi book. Definitely would pick this up if I were you.

Garrett Cash says

Can Man Live Without God is a profound book on the most important subject of all, can man live without God, and if not, what then? Ravi Zacharias tears apart the illogical and morally bankrupt philosophy of the modern era. He argues fiercely that the modern mindset has led to such an absence of moral responsibility that we have become spiritually depraved people searching for the next thing that can satisfy our desire without any work. As G.K. Chesterton said, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."

This book discusses the most important subject on this earth (in fact, so many subjects I can't include even half of them in this review), and does so flawlessly, I cannot recommend it more highly.

L.S. says

definitely 6 stars! great apologetic in postmodern times! Ravi is probably one of the best christian cultural analysts since Francis Schaeffer.

Fascinatia mirarii - fiecare poveste contine cateva elemente comune:

- principiul care se desprinde din poveste ca invatatura morala
- o conditie specifica si de nemodificat pe care trebuie sa o respecte eroul
- conditia nu e niciodata supusa intrebarii "De ce?"

Cand mirarea dispare:

- viata intreaga va fi supusa unui reductionism
- se va pierde componenta recunostintei din viata
- devine implacabila alunecarea spre un gol interior

Deoarece esenta fiintei umane este reflectarea Chipului lui Dumnezeu si ca trupul uman este Templul Lui, cultura (sau artele) [a se intelege inclusiv "divertismentul":] loveste omul prin violenta (care este impotriva Chipului lui Dumnezeu) si imoralitate sexuala (care este impotriva trupului).

Componentele esentiale ale sensului vietii umane:

- mirarea, cunoasterea adevarului, iubirea, siguranta

Testarea unei afirmatii cu pretentie de adevar:

- consecventa logica
- adecvarea empirica
- relevanta experientiala
- imposibilitatea de negare
- imposibilitatea de afirmare

Adevarul este prin definitie exclusiv! Invatatura lui Cristos afirma ca El este adevarul si ca raspunde problemei "unitate in diversitate".

Problema suferintei isi gaseste intelegere in Crucea lui Isus prin:

- expresia propriei inimi razvratite fata de Dumnezeu
- miracolul iertarii pentru refacerea vietii
- Dumnezeu nu este departe de durere si suferinta

Strategii ale criticii antiteiste:

- crearea unei caricaturii a gandirii biblice care este desfiintata mai apoi

- daca nu exista un "design" sau daca acesta este eronat atunci de unde putem stii ca creierul face o deductie corecta? poate este si el limitat printr-un prost design! Daca are o origine pur materiala, cu atat mai putin putem sa ne "incredem" in deductiile lui.
 - citeaza impotriva unor fapte stiintifice demonstrate
-

Catherine Flusche says

Note: I rank books differently than Goodreads: 3 stars is "it's okay".

A pen pal sent me this, so of course I had to read it :-).

Before opening it, my conclusion has always been that yes, man needs faith, but not necessarily in the Christian God. After completing it, I'm at the same place. Since I'm a Deist, the existence of a God wasn't an argument he had to win with me. Unfortunately for whatever his point in writing was, it was the only argument that I actually bought.

He starts out completely misrepresenting what it means to be atheist. I've decided that he gives a purely philosophical view, but that view doesn't translate to the everyday life of an atheist and therefore invalidates his arguments. Besides, he uses atheism and anti-theism synonymously and according to /r/atheism, that isn't accurate.

His entire argument for the existence of Jesus as a deity is dependent on Jesus and the Bible being TRUTH, and he fails to prove this claim. If Jesus word were TRUTH, then it would be possible to show why they aren't false. His only defense seems to be that "if they were false, his "enemies" wouldn't also say that they're true"--so what evidence is there that these "enemies" weren't lying about that status? There was a complete lack of analysis here.

For all the bold claims he made in the introduction, he unfortunately fell short. As always, I went into this book blind and tried to be unbiased, hoping that he'd convince me, but it wasn't there.

On an interesting note, while replying to the pen pal in question, she had said that people can never have enough guns. What I found intriguing by this statement is that on pg. 36, in describing how "Reasoning Failed the Test on Reasoning", Zacharias laments the fact that skeptics forget the second qualifier of Kant's claim that morality can be found purely through reason, that "an individuals moral choices were not to be determined by the happiness test, meaning that one ought not to choose a certain path for life just because it makes one happy." He goes on to bash Marxism which apparently based a lot of itself on Kant (I haven't done this research, so I take his word for it) and (perhaps laughingly) finishes by saying our "new world of democratic utopia inscribed the pursuit of individual happiness as a fundamental right for all individuals at the cost of the collective good. In both arenas, Kantian ethics were deviously mangled."

I'm not a philosopher and will quickly admit that strictly philosophical reasoning often goes over my head, but I interpret this passage as, to some extent, agreeing with Kant (though I doubt Zacharias would admit to this) in that it's important to put the collective good above the happiness of the individual. So since I enjoy complicating arguments, wouldn't we agree that it's in the interest of the collective good to put reasonable

restrictions on gun ownership (such as waiting periods, more thorough background checks, etc) even if it means inconveniencing legal gun owners? Granted, my argument is dependent on my reading Zacharias correctly and since he's vague more often than not, I cannot say that I did with certainty.

Frankie Della Torre says

God has blessed Ravi Zacharias with a brilliant mind. He is a philosophically rigorous apologist and yet he has the remarkable ability to touch at the human heart at an extremely profound level. A brilliant storyteller, sometimes I found myself laughing at the genius of his words, and others I found myself in tears, being cut to the heart by the sincerity and love with which he writes. I have been blessed by all the works of Zacharias, and consider him a man who has had impacted me more than most other scholars. His love for people, passion for the Lord, powerful intellect, and eloquent communication skills make for a beautiful and whole-hearted treatise.

Zacharias traces the concepts of meaning, purpose, and hope, and analyzes both the atheistic and Christian worldviews. He forcefully argues that apart from God, the human being, with all of his unfathomable complexities--his feelings of love, hate, joy, despair, hope, his longing for meaning and purpose, his yearning for intimacy and relationship, and most universally, the pain and suffering that comes from existence--cannot live. Without the existence of a loving and good God, man is a cosmic orphan, wondering if there is someone, anyone, who loves him. The thesis of the book is that 1) the atheistic and Christian worldview paint radically different pictures of reality, and 2) the Christian worldview, and more to the point, the Person of Jesus Christ, is the only answer to man's human predicament.

I must admit, this book is very existential, addressing some of the deepest human questions that the mind of man has ever touched; and yet it is very, very intellectually rigorous. A man like Zacharias brings both romanticism and intellect to the scene. He explains thoroughly the works of such existentialists as Sean Paul Sarte, Albert Camus, Bertrand Russell, Friedrich Nietzsche, and many others. Reading the words of the atheists themselves makes the idea that "without God, man's life means nothing," even more apparent. In the eyes of Camus, for example, life is not only meaningless, but it is also cruel. Indeed, if God does not exist, man is left with the bear, valueless fact of his pointless existence; all that exists is "matter in motion."

I recommend this book to everyone (both believers and non-believers). It is not an easy read; Zacharias writes with extremely sophisticated language (I recommend you have a dictionary close by!). I loved the book though. It has impacted me tremendously. Enjoy the read!

Ancient Weaver says

Rated one star for insulting rhetoric, fearmongering, paranoia, and poor logic.

Julie Reed says

Ravi Z. is one smart dude.

Choong Chiat says

While I cannot deny that the author has, in this book, provided some interesting insights (a few of which I somewhat agree with), I must still nonetheless conclude that this book is, in my opinion, unsatisfactory. It seems to me that most of the book mainly consists of unsubstantiated, if not sweeping, assertions.

One example of such an unsubstantiated assertion would be the author's claim that all the ills, crimes and evils of modern society can find their source in a non-theistic (or as the author puts it, anti-theistic) worldview.

Another example would be the claim that a non-theistic worldview is devoid of meaning, morality, wonder, truth and love.

Also, while it was a good debating trick for the author to flip the questions asked of Christianity by critics against them, this in itself, however, does not provide satisfactory answers to the questions.

Finally, it is interesting how while the author devotes a section to talking about there being tests which ideas and claims, including Jesus' claims, should be tested against, he strangely does not elaborate on applying these tests to Jesus' claims.

Jacob Aitken says

Imagine G.K. Chesterton, but coherent.

Matt says

This was a fairly solid apologetics book, with lots of intellectual arguments. One quote that stuck out to me was, "I say to you with emphasis that the older you get, the more it takes to fill your heart with wonder, and only God is big enough to do that" (Page 89).

anca dc says

Pentru mine personal, si fara indoiala pentru cei mai multi dintre contemporanii mei, filosofia lipsei totale

de sens a fost in esenta un mijloc de eliberare. Eliberarea pe care ne-o doream era in acelasi timp eliberare de un sistem politic si economic, dar si de un sistem moral. Ne-am impotrivit moralitatii fiindca se amesteca in libertatea noastra sexuala; ne-am impotrivit sistemului politic si economic fiindca era nedrept. Sustinatorii acestor sisteme pretindeau ca detin intr-un fel sau altul intelesul (un inteles crestian, insistau ei) lumii. Am avut o metoda admirabil de simpla pentru a-i combate pe acesti oameni si in acelasi timp pentru a ne justifica revolta politica si economica: sa negam ca lumea ar avea vreun inteles, orice fel de inteles.

Am avut motive sa doresc ca lumea sa nu aiba un inteles; prin urmare am presupus ca ea nu are inteles si am reusit fara nicio dificultate sa gasesc dovezi satisfacatoare in sprijinul acestei supozitii. Aproape toate formele de ignoranta pot fi depasite. Nu cunoastem fiindca nu vrem sa cunoastem. Vointa noastra este cea care decide asupra caror subiecte ne vom concentra inteligenta. Oamenii care nu gasesc niciun inteles vietii au deseori o motivatie pentru aceasta. Adica, dintr-un motiv sau altul, le convine ca lumea sa nu aiba inteles.

~Aldous Huxley.
