

**Cuckoos in our Nest:
Truth and Lies about
Being Human**

**Reflection and
Discussion Questions**

Chapter 1: A War of Myths

1. When you think of a “better” world, what do you have in mind? And how did these ideas get *into* your mind?
2. As you begin this book, are you sympathetic to the idea that human beings are spirits merely clothed in physicality? Why, or why not?

Chapter 2: The Question of Truth

1. Is it a good or a bad idea that individuals should “speak their truth” about life? Why, or why not?
2. How can we know if fake news really is fake news?

Chapter 3: The Circle of Trust

1. Whom or what do you currently trust?
Are they worthy of your trust?
2. In which areas of life are they trustworthy,
and how do you know?

Chapter 4: Trusting in Science

1. How far do you trust science, and why?
2. How far should we trust social media, and
why?

Chapter 5: Beyond Science

1. What are the “maps” that you use for your
journey through life?
2. When should we *not* trust the science-map,
and why?

Chapter 6: Personal Matters

1. Do you find convincing C. S. Lewis's argument about who Jesus is? Why, or why not?
2. If Paul is telling the truth about Holy Scripture in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what are the implications for the way we view the Bible?

Chapter 7: In the Beginning

1. How can the world be both a creation and the result of natural processes?
2. Why do you think that so many people find it easier to believe in luck or aliens than in God?

Chapter 8: Animated Bodies

1. Why do you think so many people apparently find it quite natural to think of their “real selves” as living inside their bodies somewhere?
2. If our destiny in Christ is to be bodily resurrected rather than escaping from matter, what difference does that make to your current life?

Chapter 9: Whole Persons

1. In this chapter, which is the most interesting or helpful idea about being human, and why?
2. Which is the most difficult or troubling idea, and why?

Chapter 10: Image Bearers

1. What difference will it make to your life in the coming week to know that you are an image-bearer of the living God?
2. How will knowing that *other people* are image-bearers of the living God change the way in which you deal with *them*?

Chapter 11: Beautiful

1. What difference does it make to you to discover that you are created beautiful, and for beauty?
2. Where is the line between affirming beauty as God-given and worshipping it as an idol?

Chapter 12: Rulers

1. What do you think it means, in practice, to rule creation under God?
2. Specifically, how does this calling affect your understanding of “work” (in whichever sphere of life you carry out this work)?

Chapter 13: Priests

1. What do you think it means, in practice, to function as a priest in the world?
2. Specifically, how does this calling affect your understanding of “work” (in whichever sphere of life you carry out this work)?

Chapter 14: Community with God

1. How will the biblical idea of faith – “not merely *believing* certain truths about God, but instead *trusting* oneself to God” – affect how you live your life this week?
2. Is your obedience to God joyful or grudging?

Chapter 15: Community with our Neighbors

1. What exactly is “not good” about a human creature being “alone”?
2. How will you “keep” your neighbors more effectively this week, as a result of reading this chapter?

Chapter 16: Male and Female

1. Are the biological differences between men and women important for understanding how we all contribute to human community?
2. Are the biblical restrictions on sexual practice outside of a male-female marriage unreasonable or good, and why?

Chapter 17: Fallen

1. The Bible, in describing us as sinners, appears to be setting out to undermine our self-esteem. Is this true, and if so, is it good or bad?
2. Which are the favorite gods that you enjoy worshipping?

Chapter 18: Saved

1. Is it surprising to you that God has been in the salvation business for such a long time?
How will this change how you live?
2. Are you surprised that God's salvation plan concerns all creation, and not just you and your friends? What difference does *this* make to how you will live?

Chapter 19: Hopeful

1. Apart from God, in what do you invest hope, and how do you deal with your disappointments?
2. How will biblical hope change your approach to the world this week – including your approach to your other hopes?

Chapter 20: Confessing

1. What are some of the ways in which you indulge in pick-and-mix theology?
2. What difference will it make to your life this week if instead you embrace Christian faith in its entirety and as a whole person?

Chapter 21: Worship

1. How did you think of worship before you read this chapter?
2. How do you now think of worship *after* reading this chapter?

Chapter 22: Rights

1. What difference does it make to your understanding of being human that all of God's creatures have rights?
2. What difference does it make to your understanding of being human that all *human beings* have rights?

Chapter 23: Life

1. Are you "pro-life"? Should you be? Why, or why not?
2. What are the implications for you of taking a biblical view of human life in the womb?

Chapter 24: Death

1. Were the early Christians right or wrong to stand so firmly against suicide?
2. What are the implications for you of adopting a biblical view of death?

Chapter 25: Gender

1. Do you find it easy or difficult to think of sex as binary, and why?
2. How will biblical teaching in this area affect how you engage with people suffering from gender dysphoria?

Chapter 26: Children

1. Do children really need to be actively “brought up” by parents, or is it better to leave them alone to find their own way?
2. How will you introduce the Christian curriculum to the children in your care, and how will you reinforce it?

Chapter 27: Education

1. How will you ensure that other people understand that it is *your* responsibility to see to your children’s upbringing?
2. How will you overcome the practical challenges that you face in getting your children well educated, especially when you may not have a good, affordable Christian school nearby?

Chapter 28: Church

1. Do you find Hannah Arendt's analysis convincing? Why, or why not?
2. Is your church already a "good" church, and if not, how will you contribute to making it better?

Chapter 29: In Christ

1. Are you comfortable "excluding" people from your community? Why, or why not?
2. Do you agree that the good church must be "a community with hard boundaries"? Why, or why not?

Chapter 30: Work

1. Are you surprised to learn that “work is not in the first instance a set of particular activities carried out in workplaces”? What difference does this make to you?
2. If all righteous work is spiritual, what does this mean for the particular work that you do each day – in whichever sphere that may be?

Chapter 31: Wealth

1. Do you find it easy or difficult to accept that wealth-creation is a valid aspect of a Christian vocation, and why?
2. Is wealth one of your idols? What are you going to do about this?

Chapter 32: Creation Care

1. Have you been living with an “anti-matter” view of the Gospel, and if so, how has this worked out in practice in your view of the world?
2. How will what you have read in this chapter change your approach to life?

Chapter 33: Love

1. Is your love for your neighbor biblically hard-edged or unbiblically weak?
2. What will a commitment to biblical compassion mean for the choices you make and do not make this week?

Chapter 34: Politics

1. Should a Christian stay out of politics?
Why, or why not?
2. What will embracing a “politics of exile” mean for the way that you live your life going forward?

Chapter 35: Committing

1. What do you need to start and stop doing in order to limit the impact of “cultural screaming” on your own life and that of your family?
2. Which kind of church community do you need to build in order to find sufficient help and support to live counter-culturally “in exile”?

Chapter 36: Follow the Science

1. Do you agree that we cannot move directly from “is” to “ought”? If so, why do you think so many people try to do it?
2. What kind of role should science legitimately play in our Christian life?

Chapter 37: Gut Feelings

1. Do you find yourself attracted to Romanticism? In which ways, and why do you think this is the case?
2. What *can* “looking inside yourself” tell you about what it means to be human, and what can it *not*?

Chapter 38: The Power of Choice

1. Is freedom of choice a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
2. What did Nietzsche get right, and where did he go wrong?

Chapter 39: A Mare's Nest

1. Considering the behaviour of your own government(s), can you spot the cuckoos who are singing their songs in different instances? Do the songs harmonize, or not?
2. How are you going to educate the children in your care to become better cultural "birdwatchers"?

Chapter 40: The God Delusion

1. Which kind of God do you really believe in, as indicated by how you live?
2. How would worshipping the true and living God change your life?

Chapter 41: Matter Doesn't Matter

1. Does matter matter to you as much as it should? How?
2. Does matter matter to you *more* than it should? How?

Chapter 42: Art

1. How has this chapter changed your thinking about faith, art, music, and architecture?
2. When it comes to art, in which ways do you find yourself attracted to the songs of the Philistine, the Constructionist, or the Romantic cuckoos?

Chapter 43: Innocence

1. Do you find the Romantic accounts of the North American past persuasive? Why, or why not?
2. What are the dangers in the often-casual Romantic attitude toward facts?

Chapter 44: Information

1. What difference will the important distinction between wisdom and information make to your life this week?
2. Have you been the beneficiary of a good or a poor education? Why, and what are you going to do about it?

Chapter 45: Zion

1. What is the difference between education and training, and why does it matter?
2. Does it matter whether education is personal rather than virtual? Why, or why not?

Chapter 46: Jerusalem

1. What should we imitate in the worship of the early church, and what should we leave behind, and why?
2. What are some of the dangers in engaging only in quasi-Christian worship instead of the real thing?

Chapter 47: Justice

1. How will the differences between biblical and non-biblical justice inform your thinking and your practice this week?
2. How will you ensure that Christians in your community, including your children, understand the true nature of justice and can resist counterfeits?

Chapter 48: Revolution

1. How does “woke” justice differ from biblical justice, and what will this mean for how you live your life this week?
2. What are the dangers of understanding justice in terms of group membership, and which steps will you take this week to ensure that those around you appreciate these dangers?

Chapter 49: Environment

1. Do you believe that you already “know” that ancient hunter-gatherers were more “ecologically wise” than we are? How did you come to know this?
2. Is it actually true, and if it is not, what difference does that make?

Chapter 50: Conclusion

1. Why do you think that so many people are suspicious and even contemptuous of the life of the mind – of “ideas”? Are they justified in this stance?
2. How does the innate incoherence of “woke” ideology help you to process and respond to what is going on around you at present?