



Personal Questionnaire

Take this questionnaire about your faith, beliefs, ideology, self-perception, and some creative questions that would make for great discussion in a group. Use it to create a space for personal reflection.

1. How do you self-identify at this point in your life, e.g. “Mother, sister, accountant” or “American, Buddhist, resident of Montana.” Does the order in which you list these identities change if you repeat the exercise? Is your answer different from how you might have responded one, five, or ten years ago? Why?
2. If you orient around a particular religious or ethical tradition, what would you call it and how would you briefly explain it to others? Can you list a few basic tenets? How long have you thought this way?
3. How do you approach the idea of “evil” in the world? Is it a thing, physical or otherwise? Why do bad things happen to good people?
4. A recent Pew Research poll found that up to one-third of Americans believe that to be “truly American”, one must be a Christian. How would you approach that claim? Is the United States of America a Christian nation? How about its government? Or its culture? Or its people? What about other countries; how do you think they orient around particular identities?
5. What’s your disability? We often think of disabled people in pretty stark categories, often in opposition to “not disabled” people, so it’s possible that you’ve never thought about this idea. Put another way: what holds you back in life, at work, with your family, etc.? Does thinking about that thing as a disability change the way you approach that word, or people that you might have otherwise called disabled?
6. Imagine that you’ve been given phenomenal cosmic power. You can give everyone on Earth three instructions/rules to live by. What would they be? Why?
7. Have you ever been made to feel like an outsider? Have you ever felt like an “Other”? What happened in that situation? Especially if it happened a long time ago, how do you feel about it now?
8. There are lots of foundations and organizations working on all kinds of human ills, e.g. malaria, AIDS, poverty, etc. If you could order all of them to work on one thing, what would it be, and why? What comes next after you’ve solved that problem?