

A Review by

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*Because God Is Real; Sixteen Questions, One Answer*, by Peter J. Kreeft.

237 pages. Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2008.

A new book by Peter Kreeft is always worth a look, and this one is no exception. Kreeft wrote it primarily for young people about to receive Confirmation, but in adult style -- as a book that can be read profitably by adults as well. He does not believe in talking down to teenagers. He sees available textbooks as less than capable of gaining their attention and uses everyday language as a means of doing so. The format is largely one of questions and answers, but not for rote memorization. Most questions are in the form of objections to the point he is making and that the reader is apt to encounter from scoffers.

Kreeft begins by dealing with the significance of questions. Some are important and some are not. His are. You do not have to be an intellectual to profit from them, because they are not just abstractions he is dealing with, but are at the heart of everyone's being. (Being a philosopher, however, allows him to use logic in answering the questions in a manner that his audience can understand.) Some of the questions are:

2.

“Why do I exist?”

“Why is faith reasonable?”

“How can you prove that God is Real?” (After all, that is the ultimate answer to all sixteen questions.)

“Why be moral?”

“Why go to church?”

“Why be a Catholic?” and

“Why pray?”

Each question is then broken down into ten other questions, making the whole thing more interesting, memorable, and practical.

This and books like it are needed today. We are losing so many of our young people that business as usual in CCD is not an option. College itself will bring them into the classrooms of atheists with a merciless agenda.

Too many lawmakers and judges have the same goals. If one escapes them, friends and acquaintances can be counted on to take up the task. Even the teacher needs what this book has to offer and is bound to gain by the insights therein.

