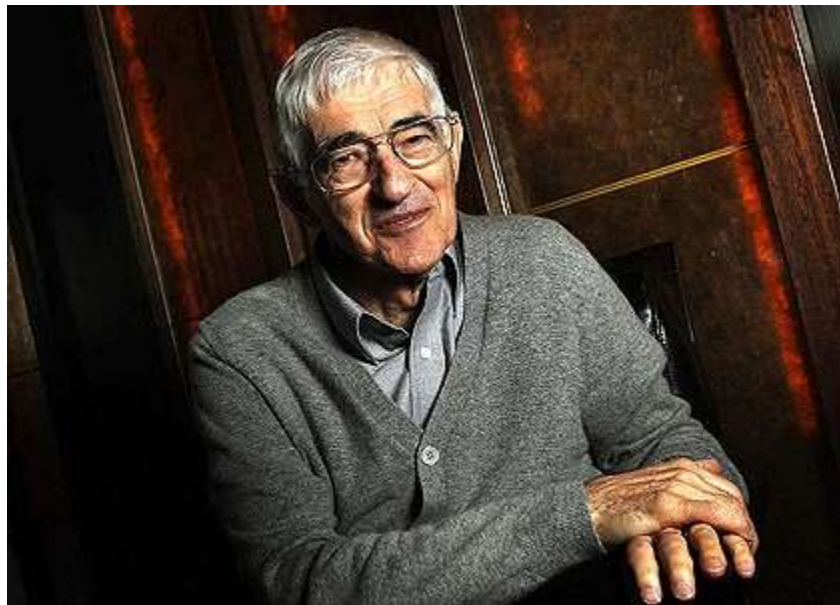


# Brief Descriptions of Popular Opponents of Christianity

“Standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by *your* opponents”<sup>1</sup> ... “With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition.”<sup>2</sup>

## Bible Scholars



**Crossan, John Dominick**

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<sup>1</sup> *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). (Php 1:27–28). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). (2 Ti 2:25). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

New Testament scholar—former Catholic priest—known for his leadership with the Jesus Seminar, and their attempt to achieve the “historical” statements of Jesus

“My point, once again, is not that those ancient people told literal stories and we are now smart enough to take them symbolically, but that they told them symbolically and we are now dumb enough to take them literally.”

### Books:

The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant

Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography

The Birth of Christianity: Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus

Who Is Jesus? Answers to Your Questions about the Historical Jesus

The Essential Jesus: Original Sayings and Earliest Images

The Power of Parable: How Fiction by Jesus became fiction about Jesus

How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis Through Revelation

Will the Real Jesus Please Stand up?: A Debate between [William Lane Craig](#) and John Dominic Crossan

Who Killed Jesus? Exposing the Roots of Anti-Semitism in the Gospel Story of the Death of Jesus

Four Other Gospels: Shadows on the Contours of Canon

### Debates:

[“Is the Bible True?”](#) vs. [James White](#)

[“The Resurrection Debate”](#) (w/ Borg) vs [White](#) and Renihan

[“The Resurrection: Historical Event of Theological Interpretation?”](#) vs N.T. Wright

[“Who was Jesus?”](#) vs N.T. Wright

[“Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up”](#) vs [William Lane Craig](#) (also a [book](#))



## **Ehrman, Bart**

New Testament scholar—professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina—known for spreading his doubt about the accurate transmission of the New Testament

“If one wants to insist that God inspired the very words of scripture, what would be the point if we don’t *have* the very words of scripture?[...] It’s a bit hard to know what the words of the Bible mean if we don’t even know what the words are!”

### Books:

Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why

Jesus Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (and Why We Don’t Know About Them)

Lost Scriptures: Books that Did Not Make It into the New Testament

God’s Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question—Why We Suffer

Forged: Why the Bible’s Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are

How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee

The Lost Gospel of Judas Iscariot

Jesus Before the Gospels: How the Earliest Christians Remembered, Changed, and Invented Their Stories of the Savior

Jesus: Apocalyptic Prophet of the New Millennium

Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew

Debates:

[“Is There Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus?”](#) vs [William Lane Craig](#)

[“Is the Original New Testament Lost?”](#) vs [Daniel Wallace](#)

[“Does the New Testament Misquote Jesus?”](#) vs. [Craig Evans](#)

[“Does the New Testament Present a Reliable Portrait of the Historical Jesus?”](#) vs [Craig Evans](#)

[“Did the Bible Misquote Jesus?”](#) vs [James White](#)

[“Was the New Testament Forged?”](#) vs [Darrell Bock](#)

[“Can We Trust the Gospels?”](#) vs [Timothy McGrew](#) (“Unbelievable” Podcast)

[“Are the Gospels Based on Eyewitness Testimony?”](#) vs [Richard Bauckham](#) (“Unbelievable” Podcast)

[“Can Historians Prove Jesus Rose From the Dead?”](#) vs [Mike Licona](#)

[“Did the Historical Jesus Claim to Be Divine?”](#) vs [Justin Bass](#)

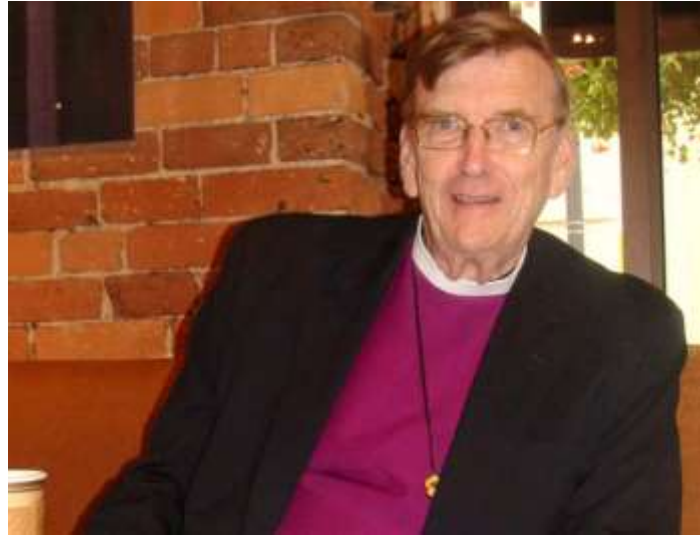
[“Theodicy: God and Suffering”](#) vs [Dinesh D’Souza](#)

[“Does Pain and Suffering in the World Indicate that the Christian God Does Not Exist?”](#) vs [Kyle Butt](#)

[“Suffering”](#) vs. [Michael Brown](#)

“How Jesus Became God” vs [Michael Bird](#)

“Did Jesus of Nazareth Exist?” vs [Robert Price](#)



## **Spong, John Shelby**

Retired Episcopal bishop—known for denying every literal tenet of historical Christian belief, interpreting them unhistorical allegory to be interpreted in humanistic ways

"The view of the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world is a barbaric idea based on a primitive concept of God that must be dismissed."

### Books:

Why Christianity Must Change or Die

A New Christianity for a New World

Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture

Jesus for the Non-Religious

The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic

The Sins of Scripture: Beyond Texts of Hate to The God of Love

Born of a Woman: A Bishop Rethinks the Virgin Birth and the Treatment of Women by a Male-Dominated Church

Eternal Life: A New Vision: Beyond Religion—Beyond Theism—Beyond Heaven and Hell

Resurrection—Myth or Reality: A Bishop's Search for the Origins of Christianity

Here I Stand: My Struggle for a Christianity of Integrity, Love, and Equality

### Debates:

[“The Great Resurrection Debate”](#) vs [William Lane Craig](#)

[“Is Homosexuality Compatible with Christianity?”](#) vs. [James White](#)

[“Sexual Ethics”](#) vs Walter Martin (John Ankerberg Show)

See also:

Robert Funk

Marcus Borg

Roy W. Hoover

Dan Brown

Karen Armstrong

Robert Price