

## Bible Talks for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Bible Talk: Is Google better than God?

What kinds of answers have you searched for? Where did you search for them?

Some people believe Google has all the answers. Did you know there is a church of Google? See <http://www.thechurchofgoogle.org/> and the 9 proofs about Google being like God.

Obviously, you can search Google for knowledge, facts, and data but the deeper answers in life can't be found with a computer and an Internet connection. In the Book of Ecclesiastes over two thousand years ago, Solomon spent his whole life searching for answers:

*So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly. Ecc 7:25*

Even Solomon, lauded as the wisest man in the Old Testament, searched for answers and meaning. Today, we can get answers from both Google and God's word. The question is, which is better? Let's start with an introduction:

A few interesting facts about Google:

Started by two college students, Larry Page and Sergey Brin from Stanford.

The name "Google" originated from a misspelling of "googol", which refers to  $10^{100}$  (the number represented by a 1 followed by one-hundred zeros).

Started in a friend's garage in Menlo Park, California in 1998 and now has market capitalization of over \$131 billion.

#1 search engine in the world.

A few interesting facts about the Bible:

Written over a 1500 year period spanning 40 generations.

Written by 40 authors from all walks of life from kings to fisherman

Includes history from three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe

#1 selling book in the world since the invention of the printing press.

Is Google better than God?

God's mission statement vs. Google's mission statement:

Google's mission/philosophy from their website is to "Do no evil" or "You can make money without doing evil." Considering all the corporate scandals in recent years, Google's mission statement is a commendable attempt to avoid the greed and corruption of the modern business world.

What is good about this philosophy? What is bad about this philosophy?

Now, consider this statement from Jesus Christ:

*"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" Matt 7:12*

We know this as the "golden rule" in the United States. What is good about this teaching?

What is the difference between the two statements made by Google and Jesus?

Consider Jesus words in John 10:10:

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Jesus is all about action and positive behavior rather than being passive and not doing something.

God's mission promotes positive action and behavior while Google mission emphasizes not doing bad while making money.

God's benefits vs. Google's benefits

Google recently was voted the #1 place to work for in Forbes magazine of 2007 America's best places to work. Here's a few of Google employee perks:

*As a play on Google's name, its headquarters, in Mountain View, California, is referred to as "the Googleplex". The lobby is decorated with a piano, lava lamps, old server clusters, and a projection of search queries on the wall. The hallways are full of exercise balls and bicycles. Each employee has access to the corporate recreation center. Recreational amenities are scattered throughout the campus and include a workout room with weights and rowing machines, locker rooms, washers and dryers, a massage room, assorted video games, Foosball, a baby grand piano, a pool table, and ping pong. In addition to the rec room, there are snack rooms stocked with various cereals, gummy bears, toffee, licorice, cashews, yogurt, carrots, fresh fruit, and dozens of different drinks including fresh juice, soda, and make your own cappuccino.*

This sounds like great benefits! It is rare indeed for a company to provide an environment for employees to play, thrive, and rejuvenate. Clearly Google understands the value of its

workers and the need to build a rewarding business culture. Although Google has had an extremely profitable run in business and can provide such perks, a companies fortune can change overnight such as with the stock markets after the 911 attack.

What could happen at Google that could take these benefits away?

God wants us to have benefits that never go away. Jesus addresses this subject in Matthew 6:19-20:

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

What are heavenly treasures? What is better about heavenly treasures versus earthly ones?

**Google's benefits won't last, but God's benefits last forever.**

God's searching vs. Google searching.

Several top search engines are working on technology that personalizes searches or in effect, reads your mind to understand what you are looking for to deliver better results. Google wants to build a search engine that will be able to better satisfy the user and create a higher degree of customer satisfaction.

While scientists and computer engineers labor away at this task, how do you feel about a company that wants to read your mind?

That's kinda scary! We don't know what Google's motives are, other than to make money, but let's see what God says about searching us:

*"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve." Jeremiah 17:10*

Why do you think God is so interested in what's on our hearts and minds? Why does God say he wants to "reward a man"?

Google wants to search you so they can deliver better results and make more money. God searches us because He loves us and wants to reward our righteousness.

Conclusion:

**God's mission promotes positive action and behavior while Google's mission emphasizes not doing bad.**

**Google's benefits won't last, but God's benefits last forever.**

**Google wants to search you to deliver better results and make more money. God**

**searches us because He loves us and wants to reward our righteousness.**  
**God is better than Google. God wants to give you a great mission, eternal benefits,**  
**and reward you. Will you search His word to know Him?**

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