

## Defeater Beliefs in Europe

In this workshop we will look at some of the main beliefs that stop people in Europe even considering Christianity. What are they? How can we engage with and answer them? How can we remove these barriers and even turn them into springboards for the Gospel?

**David Robertson** is the minister of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, Scotland (a church that is best known for being the church of Robert Murray McCheyne) and the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity. He is the author of *Awakening* (a contemporary account of McCheyne's life), *The Dawkins Letters*, *Magnificent Obsession*, and *Quench*. He has been invited to debate and discuss all over the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This has been done in cafes, bars, libraries, universities, pubs, restaurants, village halls, and even occasionally in churches! David is a chaplain at the University of Dundee, columnist, broadcaster, and debater. His interests include history, reading, music, politics, theology, and football – he supports Dundee FC although his other team is Barcelona! David is married to Annabel and they have three children; Andrew, Becky, and Emma Jane.

### I. Introduction – What is a Defeater Belief?

### II. Defeating the Defeaters

1. Humans have Progressed from Polytheism to Monotheism to Atheism
2. Religion restricts freedom
3. Religion is the source of evil
4. Christianity is against equality and diversity

5. Religion is anti-science
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Christianity suffocates progress in modern medicine
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. The Church is full of hypocrites
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. The Church is dying and irrelevant

***Suggested Readings:***

Tim Keller – *Reason for God* – Hodder and Stoughton

Sam Alberry – *Is God Anti-Gay?* – Good Book – 2013

Vishanal Mangalwadi – *The Book that Made Your World* – Thomas Nelson – 2011

David Robertson – *Engaging with Atheists* – Good Book – 2014

David Robertson – *Magnificent Obsession* – Christian Focus – 2013

John Lennox – *Gods Undertaker – Has Science Buried God* – Lion – 2009