

## Just Because

A parent asks his child to do some work around the house. The child asks why. Without explaining the parent simply remarks, "Because."

"Because, why?" is the child's natural response.

The parent returns, "Just because."

Perhaps it is part of our nature to ask why. Even without learning the fundamentals of logic, children seem to have the ability to engage a parent into a discussion in hopes of finding a way out of their predicament. Without even thinking it through a child can find a flaw in a parent's reasoning, point out this gross error, and often times get their own way. A parent's best course of action is to avoid reasoning and offer the "Just because" defense.

It is really rather comical. "Because" is not a real answer. The word "because" is used to begin the explanation to a question; it answers the question, "Why?" (Or, "How come?") To say the word "because" really means that you are right in the *middle* of a discussion, not the end.

And yet, it is brilliant on the part of a parent. If a parent is able to throw in the "because" clause . . . and then say nothing else, it just might confuse the opposition. Yet, if the child uses the "Because, why?" question, there is only one thing to do, *pull rank*. That is the function of the "Just because" answer.

"Just because" is a statement to show superior authority. *Ending* the discussion (argument) with the phrase "just because" is equivalent to a bold exclamation point following the absence of any explanation. It makes the question, "Why?" an invalid question. It basically means, "I have spoken and I do not need to explain anything."

### What does this have to do with anything?

I believe describes how most Christians have been taught about God's authority. You might have heard it stated this way: "God said it. I believe it. That settles it." On the surface it sounds reasonable; and who would really argue with God? God does not have to answer to me. I do not know where this authoritarian, militaristic thinking originated, but it certainly affords leadership great control over others. Unfortunately, because of this thinking many have missed out on a richer understanding of the nature of God.

If God had wanted to control mankind by force, he could have easily given a list of commands with no explanation. Or, He could have created man with a built in "shock collar" that would *zap* anyone who stepped out of line. No explanation would be given, just a shock. Eventually, like a barking dog with a shock collar, the behavior would change, but with no understanding! God did not say, "Fall down and worship me," yet with no further explanation. He did not say, "Please me," and yet offer no reason. He created mankind in His own image. Each human being is a thinking being with a conscience, different from the animals.

The commands, instruction, teachings, and doctrines found in the Bible are not without explanation. It is true, God does not have to explain anything, but He did. The Bible itself is, *God revealed to man*.

He explained that He knew His own creation so well that He knew that man would oppose Him (sin) even *before* He created him. He explained that He had planned a remedy for sin even *before* He began creation. He showed what was important to Himself by having regard for those who believed in him and who were humble before Him. He demonstrated his nature by his patience with Israel and by his forgiveness. From the beginning of time the voice of God has echoed across the centuries declaring His desire to have fellowship with mankind. He explained Himself to the ancient fathers; He revealed Himself through the prophets, and finally, He demonstrated His nature through His Son, Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

To this statement man must wonder, and ponder, and ask, "Why? Why do you love me?"

And God answers, "Because."

Bewildered, man asks, "Because why?"

"Just because."

**"I AM WHO I AM."**

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