

MASTERCLASS

CANBERRA

THURSDAY
6 SEPTEMBER
2018

Are you invested in training up the next generation of public Christians?

Is it your passion to give young Christians confidence in their faith?

Masterclass, run by Bible Society Australia, is a one-day event for Christian students in years 9-12 of high school. The goal of Masterclass is to inspire, stretch and encourage the next generation of believers.

"that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best..."
Philippians 1:9

Three highly engaging speakers present on a variety of topics, with a threefold goal based on Paul's prayer above:

- **Foundational teaching** to build the students' confidence in the bible with evidence for the truths of the Christian faith;
- **Missional teaching** to encourage young Christians to live out their faith in their schools, churches, communities and homes; and
- **Topical teaching** to explore contemporary issues of faith and culture from a biblical perspective.

"Masterclass aims to challenge students on what they believe, why they believe it, and how this intersects with their world." – Past attendee of Masterclass

**With
Hot Topics
Q&A**



John Dickson

Founding Director,
Centre for Public
Christianity (CPX)

**Doubters guide to
Jesus**



Simon Smart

Executive Director,
Centre for Public
Christianity (CPX)

**It's a girl! Is the
Christian gospel good
news for women?**



Patricia Weerakoon

Christian Sexologist
and Author

**Sex: What has
God got to do
with it?**



Trinity Christian School

34 McBryde Crescent, Wanniasa
Starts at 9:15am. Finishes at 2:30pm.

Thursday 6 September

This is a **FREE** event

Register at www.masterclass.org.au

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS



John Dickson
Foundational

John started out as a singer-songwriter, but he now works as a writer, speaker, historian of religion, and the Anglican Rector of St Andrew's Roseville. Having founded the Centre for Public Christianity in 2007, John has published over a dozen titles, as well as writing for mainstream newspapers and appearing in the media promoting 'thoughtful Christianity'. He has presented three historical documentaries: *The Christ Files*, *Life of Jesus* and *For the Love of God: How the Church is Better and Worse Than You Ever Imagined*.

John focuses on the big ideas that have shaped our world. He is committed to delivering creative, engaging content grounded in careful thought.

He lives with his wife and three children in Sydney's North Shore.

A doubter's guide to Jesus

Abstract: After two millennia of spiritual devotion and more than two centuries of modern critical research, we still cannot fit Jesus into a box. Our best information points not to a tidy, monolithic Jesus, but to a complex, multi-layered and, at times, contradictory figure. While some might be troubled by this, fearing that plurality equals incomprehensibility or unreliability, others take it as an invitation to do some rearranging for themselves, trying to make Jesus neater, more systematic and digestible.

Jesus is destined to stretch our imaginations, confront our beliefs, and challenge our lifestyles for many years to come.



Simon Smart
Missional

Simon is Executive Director of the Centre for Public Christianity. A former English and history teacher, Simon has a Masters in Christian Studies from Regent College, Canada. He has years of experience in writing and editing, both academic curricula and popular books. He is the author of *For God's Sake: An Atheist, a Jew, a Christian and a Muslim Debate Religion*, and editor of *A Spectator's Guide to Worldviews*. Simon is co-host of the documentary *For the Love of God: How the Church is Better and Worse Than You Ever Imagined*.

Simon lives on Sydney's Northern Beaches. He is a sports tragic and an enthusiastic but inept surfer. He has two teenaged children who still don't mind being seen with him in public!

It's a girl! Is the Christian gospel good news for women?

Abstract: Early Christianity was mocked as a religion of women and slaves – that is to say, not to be taken seriously. But Christianity is much more likely to be condemned today, not for being a religion for women, but a religion against women. If gender equality mattered to the early church, what happened to it? What does Christianity's chequered treatment of women mean for its credibility today? And is the Christian faith a force for the oppression of women, or for their flourishing?



Patricia Weerakoon
Topical

Trained in Medicine (Sri Lanka) and Sexology (Hawaii), Patricia is an honorary senior lecturer with Sydney University. She has more than 30 years of experience as a sex educator, researcher and therapist in the US, Sri Lanka and Australia.

After a career as Director of a graduate programme in sexual health at the University of Sydney, she retired in 2012 to pursue her passion for writing and public speaking. These bring together her enthusiasm for sex and her love for the glory of God. Patricia regularly holds seminars at schools, churches and conferences, sharing her passion for sexual health.

Sex: What has God got to do with it?

Abstract: The world challenges you to consume and do whatever feels good to you. Sex is a commodity to be shared at the swipe on your iPhone and viewed on explicit porn sites. What makes you vulnerable to the peer pressure of your generation? Does God have anything to say about sex? Is it possible to live a countercultural lifestyle and be happy? Explore the challenges of living in a super-sexualised cyber world. Come and be challenged as Patricia explores God's plan for sex and relationships.

If you are a principal, teacher, chaplain, youth leader or parent, Bible Society is asking you to invite students who would benefit from a day to invest in their spiritual development. Masterclass will better prepare them to be public Christians who have confidence within their schools and community.

There is no limit to the size of your group. Book this date with your school and register your student and teacher numbers at www.masterclass.org.au.

Contact Gayle Baikie for any enquiries at masterclass@biblesociety.org.au or 02 9870 5636

"My students loved it, found every talk helpful and relevant for their Christian faith and expression of it in their lives and at school. Encouraging to see so many other Christian students!"
— Past attendee of Masterclass

Masterclass Partners

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