**Religious language: for starters**

Some philosophers think that talking about religion and God is pointless. This is because either the words mean something different than they do in every day usage (consider ‘loving’ when speaking of a pet and ‘loving’ when speaking of God) and so we can’t be sure what is meant, or, the statements we make cannot never be proved true or false so the whole discussion is pointless. It is this last point that we are considering here.

Look at the statements below. Which are true and which are false? Which can be proved or disproved? Which do you think are meaningless? What issues arise out of your thoughts?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **True/False Don’t know** | **Can it be proved? Yes/No** | **Is it pointless? Yes/No** | **Reason** |
| 1. It is raining outside at the moment. |  |  |  |  |
| 2. 2+3=5 |  |  |  |  |
| 3. God loves you very much.  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. The person next to you is beautiful.  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. The sun will rise tomorrow.  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Classical music is better than rock music.  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Men with beards are trying to hide something.  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Pythagoras’ theorem always works.  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. I will go to heaven when I die.  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. Hurray!  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. A green goblin that is only visible to me is sitting behind you.  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. Christmas shopping is murder. |  |  |  |  |