



Asking for a Friend

PART 6: AREN'T ALL RELIGIONS THE SAME?

Sermon Notes

Text: John 14:1-10

Intro:

1 Peter 3:15

Multiculturalism and pluralism create an environment where people begin to see all religion as being the same.

The blind men and the elephant parable - all religions merely know part of the truth. But this parable leads to arrogance, as the teller of the story is claiming to see the elephant that no one else can see.

Christianity makes exclusive claims

“It is no more narrow to claim that one religion is right than to claim that one way to think about all religions (namely that all are equal) is right. We are all exclusive in our beliefs about religion, but in different ways.”
~Tim Keller

Acts 4:12

“To the charge that they are being stubborn and arrogant about their position, Christians reply that it is Jesus’ teachings, not theirs, that they are being stubborn about; and that this is not arrogant, for they do not arrogate to themselves the power to change them. Christians simply do not have the authority to do that, because “authority” means author’s

rights, and Christians are not the authors, nor even the editors, but only the mail carriers, of God’s words. What would be arrogant indeed would be to correct Almighty God for the sake of ecumenism” ~Peter Kreeft

John 14:1-10

Lunatic, Liar, Lord ~C.S. Lewis

“This is no more exclusive than if you had fallen into a well and a rescue crew lowered down a rope as a way of escape. It would be silly to criticize their one way of escape as too exclusive or restrictive. But people often do this with God. We demand multiple options because we want the power to decide our own method of rescue, because we want to be in charge of everything. We want to play God. But a single solution does not imply exclusivity—not if that solution is offered to everyone without exception” ~Bruxy Cavey

Christianity provides a firm basis for respecting people of other faiths:

Outsider should see our behaviour as “good” - Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12

Christians expect people of other religions to be often be more moral and better behaved than Christians.

Ephesians 4:8-9

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What stood out to you about Sunday's message? Did you learn anything new or helpful?
2. Have you ever had a conversation with someone who believed all religions were basically the same? What did you say to them? What do you think is unique about Christianity as compared to other religions?

Study & Discussion:

1. Have you ever been accused of being "narrow minded," "bigotted," or "arrogant" for holding Christian beliefs? How did you respond? Why do Christians get that reputation? How can we show people that those things aren't true?
2. Read John 14:1-10. What are some of the exclusive claims Jesus makes in this passage? Can you think of other claims Jesus makes that no mere human could claim? What would you do if you found out that Jesus was just a lunatic or that he was a liar? What are the consequences if he's actually right?
3. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Every religion believes in some sort of "salvation." This passage is a good summary of the Christian belief in salvation. It explains our "pre-saved" status, and explains how God saved us in Jesus. As a group, discuss what this passage says about salvation. Why does v. 9 say that we can't "boast" about salvation? How should this understanding of salvation inform our view of those who aren't Christians?

Prayer:

- Pray for opportunities to answer questions people have about your faith.

Other Requests

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