

Tough Questions Sermon #2: Can there be only one true religion?

Colossians 1:11-23

Can there be only one true religion?

- There are numerous reasons why people find this question difficult
- A Christian perspective: general revelation and special revelation

What assumptions do we bring to this question?

- What we assume about the meaning and purpose of life colors how we process the question of whether or not there can be one true religion
- Christianity poses a unique understanding of the problems of our world and a particular solution – Jesus reconciles God and humanity

Is Jesus utterly unique?

- The Bible presents Jesus as “the image of the invisible God”, the “firstborn of all creation”, claiming that all things were created through him and for him – “in everything he might be preeminent”
- What do we do? A) those not committed to Christianity: wrestle with what Christianity claims (did Jesus really rise from the dead?) B) Christians: the starting question forces us to keep before us two elements of Christianity: a) humility b) the call to be peace makers

Questions for reflection

1. If the claim that there might be only one true religion is difficult for you, why is that? Do you feel judged? Are you afraid to be wrong? Are you concerned for others? Do you think war and conflict are inevitable where that view is held? Any other reason?
2. What do you want most in life? Happiness? Success? To be good? If you try to think from within a Biblical framework – that humanity is alienated from God and cannot cross that divide on their own (yet God is what we need most) – how does that change (if it does) how you understand the claim of the Bible that Jesus is unique and should be fully trusted?
3. If you consider non-subjective elements of Christianity (for example, not simply that Christianity seems right, but that Jesus actually rose from the dead), what objections do you have to Christianity?
4. What resources within Christianity should guide the Christian to live a life that promotes peace and care for others while still holding firm that apart from Jesus we have no hope? Is it possible for Christians to hold firmly to their beliefs and live at peace with their neighbors?
5. The message of grace is central to Christianity – if the church loses sight of the fact that all of us have sinned and that God alone is to be trusted, in what ways will the church fall into the traps of arrogance or oppression?