



Review Week 5

- ▶ Last week we explored 4 different worldviews and what their core beliefs are: (Islam, Hinduism, New Age, Atheism)
- ▶ Asking their views on God, Origin, Meaning, Morality, Destiny.
- ▶ Probing their practices, sacred texts, views on Jesus.
- ▶ We then must ask the following question.....

Review Week 5

Which statement do you believe?

All religions are **fundamentally** the same and only **superficially** different”

OR.....

“It is more correct to say that all religions are, at best, **superficially** similar but **fundamentally** different.”

Does it matter? Hint synonyms:

Fundamental = foundational

Superficial = insubstantial

How Christianity differs fundamentally from other worldviews

“Perhaps the greatest difference of all [among religious views] lies in the Christian assertion that none of us can save ourselves and make ourselves acceptable to God, try as we may: all the other faiths assert that by keeping their teachings a person will be saved, fulfilled or reborn.”

How Christianity differs fundamentally from other worldviews

All other religions of the world are fundamentally just one religion—one of salvation by works. Each religion sets up a particular set of religious rites, of commands and restrictions, and of ethical principles to follow, and then teaches that if a man does these things he will be saved. The human origin of each of these systems is indicated by the fact that each is humanly attainable.

Jesus claims John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Can there only be one way to God?
Is that true? Is it being close
minded?

Objections to Truth (Using Logic)

- ▶ Relativism is the belief that objective truth does not exist.
- ▶ Relativistic slogans turn out to be self-refuting.

Examples:

- ▶ Truth does not exist (Is that a true statement?)
- ▶ Nothing is absolute (Is that absolutely true?)

Self Refuting (continued)

- ▶ I do not exist (You must exist to deny that you exist)
- ▶ Science is the only way to know (Can you scientifically prove that?)
- ▶ Only what can be perceived by the five senses exists (Can you prove that by the five senses?)

Core Verse going forward

1 Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts **revere Christ as Lord**. Always be prepared to give an **answer** to everyone who asks you to give the **reason** for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness and respect,**" (NIV)

SHOW VIDEO THE NEW
ATHEISTS
NOT THE SPEAKER (PASTOR
TIM KELLER'S USE OF THE
WORD *POWER*

How does this passage of scripture relate to the use of power? (in all 4 gospels)

Matthew 26:51-53 NASB

“And behold, one of those who were with Jesus ^[m]reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and ^[n]cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus *said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. ⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve ^[o]legions of angels?”

(Note later Jesus affirms the fact His kingdom is not of this world, John 18:36)

VIDEO

Worldviews and the use of questions

A Conversational Approach

- ▶ Begin by asking questions. Sincere questions are non-threatening, “no-pressure” ways to talk about spiritual things.
- ▶ Three goals of asking a question:
 1. To gain information (bring out assumptions)
 2. To reverse the burden of proof (off of you)
 3. To expose a weakness in a view or position

Three Kinds of Questions

1. “What do you mean by that?”
2. “How/When did you come to that conclusion?”
3. “Have you ever considered the idea that...”
4. “What if your wrong?”

Responding to Relativistic Slogans:

- ▶ “You shouldn’t try to convert people to your views.”
- ▶ “Christians are intolerant of other viewpoints.”
- ▶ “That’s true for you but not for me.”

“You shouldn’t try to convert people to your views.”

- ▶ “What do you mean by ‘convert’?”
- ▶ “Is it ever OK to try to *persuade* someone of your viewpoint?”
- ▶ “Why are you trying to persuade me to accept your viewpoint?”

“Christians are intolerant of other viewpoints.”

- ▶ “What do you mean by ‘intolerant’?”
- ▶ “How exactly are Christians intolerant?”
- ▶ “If it’s ‘intolerant’ not to accept other people’s views, why don’t you accept my view?”

“That’s true for you but not for me.”

- ▶ “What do you mean by that?”
- ▶ “Is that your belief?”
- ▶ “If my belief is only true for me, why isn’t your belief only true for you?”

Group Work

1. What are some reasons we hesitate to engage our unbelieving friends, family and co-workers in conversations about Christianity?
2. How does understanding the difference between knowing Christianity is true and showing it's true help you in evangelism?

Come back together as a whole group and focus on the importance of prayer and a dependency on the Holy Spirit (John 16:4b-11) in personal evangelism.

John 16:4b-11 (ICB)

The Work of the Holy Spirit

- ▶ “⁷ But I tell you the truth. It is better for you that I go away. When I go away I will send the Helper^[a] to you. If I do not go away, then the Helper will not come. ⁸ When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment.⁹ He will prove to them about sin, because they don’t believe in me. ¹⁰ He will prove to them that I am right with God, because I am going to the Father. You will not see me anymore. ¹¹ And the Helper will prove to them the truth about judgment, because the ruler of this world is already judged.”
- ▶ ^[a] **Helper** “Counselor,” or “Comforter.” Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit. (RETURN TO PP)

Three Arguments for God (a creator)

- **The First Cause Argument** – Nothing comes into existence without a cause. The Big Bang theory substantiates a beginning of the universe. Therefore the question is what caused that beginning?
- **The Argument from Design** – We see that the universe is ordered. One can assume it was designed by an intelligence as every other designed object is, **or the other conclusion** is that it is designed by chance and i.e. randomly.
- **The Moral Argument** - There are moral laws. Moral laws have the form of commands; they tell us what to do. Commands can't exist without a commander though, so who is it that commands us to behave morally? It is then assumed that there is a moral law giver.

"There cannot be a God, because there is too much evil in this world."

“Here's the problem with that objection. When you say there's too much evil in this world you assume there's good. When you assume there's good, you assume there's such a thing as a moral law on the basis of which to differentiate between good and evil. But if you assume a moral law, you must posit a moral Law Giver, but that's Who you're trying to disprove and not prove. Because if there's no moral Law Giver, there's no moral law. If there's no moral law, there's no good. If there's no good, there's no evil.” Ravi Zacharias