

Sermon Notes

May 13, 2007

Christianity and the Religions of the World: #6: Questions People Ask

A. What about other “smaller” religions?

- Ex - Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Scientology, etc

1. when considering religious group outside of the Primary 5 World Religions, of course God loves them, but there are just so many theological & logical problems, that their _____ are less than compelling

3 Societal Responses to all the World Religions:

1. All religions are essentially the _____.

Many forms of Buddhism believe there is no God at all; Hinduism says there are as many as 33 million gods; Christianity says there is only One God

- they are not saying the same thing

2. All religions are _____.

All world religions are making objective (not subjective claims), thus everyone cannot be right.

3. All religions are _____, even though they are claiming different objective truths

To say that all religions are equal is both naïve & illogical; some religions are not only unhealthy, they are actually quite sick.

4. Getting at the answer (The Proverbial Elephant):

- all world religions are trying to describe a God they cannot see, but they can feel Him all too well

1. Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam all were founded by men who only claimed to be prophets & those prophets died.

Nothing was claimed to the contrary

2. Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam all say It is through your _____ (your karma, obedience to their rules; good things that *you do* in your life), that you are made right with God & thereby obtain God’s love, get to heaven, or achieve whatever existential state they strive for.

5. Christianity makes 2 objective claims that are fundamentally different than all the other world religions

1. Christianity was founded by a man who claimed to be God (this is why he was crucified), and His followers all claimed that he was alive after death (resurrection)

2. Christianity teaches God _____ you (& all human beings) regardless of what you do, and your works are simply a response to

God’s love, rather than a *means to obtain* God’s love. (God’s love = grace – unconditional, undeserved, unmerited)

6. What about those who never hear?

John 14:6; 2. Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 1:20; Jesus is indeed the Way, but be so very careful, that you don’t confuse your Way of knowing Jesus, with the _____ way that God can reveal himself to other people through Christ

a. beliefs 1. same 2. relative 3. equal 4. works 5. loves 6. only