

December 14, 2022

World Religions and the Gospel

Recap of Last Week's Evangelism in the Neighborhood

The Gospel and The Doctrine of God

What much does someone need to know about God in order to be saved? Who is God and how do we come to know him?

Ephesians 2:18 – “For through him [Christ] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”

Engaging with Roman Catholics

Who is God? / How do they believe someone is made right before God?

“The Church... does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from holy Scripture alone. Both Tradition and Scripture must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.” – *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 82.

“If any one says, that by faith alone the impious are justified; in such wise as to mean, that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to the obtaining the grace of justification... let him be anathema.” – Council of Trent, Session 6 On Justification Canon IX

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How should we engage with Roman Catholics?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Engaging with Jews

Who is God? / How do they believe someone is made right before God?

Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

How should we engage with Jews?

Matthew 1:22-23 – “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.’ (which means, God with us.)” – Quoted from Isaiah 7:14

Matthew 9:6 – “‘But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’ – he then said to the paralytic – ‘Rise, pick up your bed and go home.’”

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Matthew 26:28 – “For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Engaging with Muslims

Who is God? / How do they believe someone is made right before God?

“Indeed the believers are those who attain salvation. [The believers are] those who before God’s presence humble themselves in their prayers. [They are] those who avoid vain talks and act. [They are] those who by God’s command pay alms to the needy out of what they have earned lawfully. [The believers are] those who restrain their sexual passion, save with their wives ... in such case there is no blame on them, but those who do other than this, they are transgressors from God’s limits. [Moreover, the believers are] those who return the properties which have been entrusted [to them] and they feel dutiful about their covenants. [They are] those who perform their prayers regularly [five times daily].” (Qur’an; 23: 1-9)

How should we engage with Muslims?

James 2:10 – “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.”

Engaging with Letter-Day Saints

Who is God? / How do they believe someone is made right before God?

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2 Nephi 25:23 – “For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.”

The 3rd Article of Faith – “We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.”

The King Follett Discourse (Sermon) by Joseph Smith – “We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see... You have got to learn how to be gods yourselves and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you.”

How should we engage with Mormons?

Isaiah 43:10b – “Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.”

Isaiah 44:6 – “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.”

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the *free gift* of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 11:6 – “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would not longer be grace.”

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Reflection From The Week:

Go out into your neighborhood share the gospel with someone who does not know who God is.

Further Resources:

Chatraw, Joshua D. and Mark D. Allen. *Apologetics At The Cross: An Introduction for Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2018.

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 1980.

Newman, Randy. *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Heart the Way Jesus Did*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2004.

Van Til, Cornelius. *Christian Apologetics*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1976.