

What Makes Christianity So Good?

The Beauty of the Gospel

Introduction

There are hosts of religions in the world today. Why would someone choose Christianity? Why would someone believe in a God at all? Christians often talk about the Gospel. The word gospel means “good news.” So what’s so good about Christianity?

I. Why is this world here?

- A. There is one God who is a community in Himself—a Trinity of three persons who perfectly love and enjoy each other.
- B. This perfect God of love created a beautiful, good, and perfect world.
- C. So what happened to this world?

II. Problem of sin

- A. Sin is a failure to have God in his rightful place. (Gen 3:5; Mt 22:37-38; Rom 3:23)
- B. We could say that sin is basing our identity on anything other than God.
- C. Everyone gets their identity from somewhere
- D. If we base our identity on anything other than God it will lead to a loss of self and a loss of hope
- E. Even if we get what we thought we wanted, it won’t lead to happiness.

- F. If we base our identity on anything other than God, it will lead to a breakdown of society and a demonization of the “other”—our opponent
- G. Our desire to base our identity on anything other than God has also led to cosmic consequences. (Gen 3:14; Rom 8:20-21)

III. What’s the Solution?

- A. Since our problem is a failure to put God in his rightful place, the solution is not simply a change of behavior but a re-centering of our life.
- B. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
- C. There are two kinds of self-centeredness and pride
 - 1. One that simply desires to live life your own way
 - 2. One that tries to do good in order to be your own Savior and Lord. (Lk 18:10-14)
- D. The only answer is Jesus
 - 1. He is the perfect, infinite one on whom you can base your identity.
 - 2. He is the one who will satisfy you when you live for Him and forgive when you fail.
 - 3. He is the one who demonstrated for us what it means to truly love all by his self-sacrificial death on the cross.

E. What makes Christianity so good? Jesus

1. Other religions teach the way, but Jesus showed the way.
2. Jesus offers salvation by grace and a renewal of person, not simply a list of regulations. (1 Cor 15:10; Titus 3:5)

IV. Really?

- A. You might be thinking “That would be great if it were true. But you can’t seriously think Christianity is true.”
- B. Where do we go from here?

V. Faith and Doubt

- A. Believers must reconsider faith and doubt
- B. Skeptics must reconsider faith and doubt
 1. Doubts are really a set of alternate beliefs.
- C. So, if you doubt Christianity, you need to consider the alternative set of beliefs you hold and determine what reasons you have to believe them.

Conclusion: Christianity offers a beautiful hope through the good news of Jesus Christ. Yet many people offer objections to Christianity. We need to consider what is lying underneath those objections and determine if they are valid.