Christ 101: How to Defend the Christian Faith with Reason and Evidence.

Lesson Two: Solving the Problem of Happiness

Religion is important because it deals with the biggest questions in life.

1. How did I get here?
2. What is the meaning of all this?
3. Where am I going?

Religion is a relationship with God. Religion is the most important subject in life. It is the one thing that we have to get right.

How should we respond to the problem of happiness?

1. Kill yourself? Most people want to live. What if God does exist?
2. Distract yourself. Distractions don’t lead to happiness either. What if God does exist and you are deliberately ignoring him?
3. Be a tough guy. Being “tough” doesn’t make the problems go away.
4. Try to find something better. Can religion help? Only if there is a true religion will religion help.

Is there a true religion?

* Searching for the true religion can be very important to your life.
* This question of trying to find the true religion is very important for us.
* Finding the true religion can help solve some of the problems of this life. We know that this life has an objective purpose. That objective purpose can give meaning and value to our suffering that we would not have otherwise.
* God is needed in order for our lives to have an objective meaning.
* True religion can be a solution to the problems posed by death. Death might not be the end.
* Finding true religion can help solve the problem of eternal judgement.
* Everybody is going to die. Sensible people should try to find out what happens next.

How can we find the true religion? We need to ask two important questions.

1. What they believe?
2. Why they believe?

Why they believe? What good reasons are there for thinking their view is true? What are the reasons for their truth?

Apologetics focuses on the question of why they believe. What are the reasons for their truth?

Objections

Pluralistic Objection – All religions are true. It is possible that all religions are true.

* Different religions are mutually exclusive and contradictory.

Indifferentist Objection – “It doesn’t really matter. It doesn't matter which religion you practice.”

* Clearly it is better to believe the one true religion.

Agnostic Objection – “We can not really know which religion is true.”

Christianity holds that it is not blind faith. Human reason alone can help up determine what is the true religion among all the other different religions.

Human reason can discover the true religion. God has stamped His revelation with certain identifying marks.

God has acted in human history and in so doing has left traces of His activity.

Most religions do not make an attempt to answer the question “why” they believe.

Christianity, if true, brings hope and offers a solution to the problem of happiness.

We need to look at the evidence. Christianity is the religion that is supported by external evidence.