

Youth Group 9/23/20 - Intro to World Religions

- What do you think religion is? What are some things you think of as being related to religion?

- Some definitions of religion:

- a system of beliefs and practices that provides values to give life meaning and coherence by directing a person toward transcendence

- a set of beliefs that acts as a lens through which we seek to explain what life is all about, who we are, and how we should spend our time

- Is Christianity a religion? See James 1:27

_____ is religious.

- Read Acts 17:22-31. Why is learning about other religions important?

- 1. It helps us _____ to other people.

- 2. It shows us what is _____ about Christianity.

- 3. It helps us think about and understand our own _____ better.

- 4. It gives us _____ in what we believe.

- Any others reasons you can think of?

- What distinguishes Biblical (Orthodox) Christianity from *all other religions*?

1. Christianity is based on objective and verifiable historical _____

- No other religion can say this.

- Islam - Muhammad's visions

- Mormonism - Joseph Smith's visions

- Jehovah's witnesses - Charles Russell's special insight into the Bible

- Christian science - Mary Baker Eddy's miraculous healing

- Hinduism/Buddhism – based in their personal experience of the world

- Scientology – based on a new way of looking at the brain (not historical or verifiable)

- Atheism – based on personal sense that God doesn't exist

2. Belief that Jesus is _____

- No other religion says that Jesus is (the) God.

- What are some things we could believe about Jesus that would be against Christianity's belief?

3. We are saved by _____ and not by _____

- Every other religion says you are saved by something you must perform.

- What are some things that other religions might say you must do to be saved?

4. God is a triune being (_____) > Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

(We will talk about why this is important at a later youth group)

- No other religion believes God is this way.
 - What can religions believe about God's person?
 - Atheism - there is _____ god
 - Pantheism - _____ is god
 - Polytheism - there are _____ gods
 - Monotheism - there is _____ god
 - Which of these is Christianity?
- As we go forward with different religions, some important questions we want to ask are:
- What does this religion believe...
 - ...about God?
 - ...about man?
 - ...is wrong with the world?
 - ...has been/is being/will be done to make it right?
 - ...is the source for knowing these things?
 - How would Biblical (Orthodox) Christianity answer these questions?

Next youth group.....ATHEISM!!!

Study Guide

- Is Christianity a religion? Yes
__Everyone__ is religious.

- Read Acts 17:22-31. Why is learning about other religions important?

- 1. It helps us __witness__ to other people.
- 2. It shows us what is __vital__ about Christianity.
- 3. It helps us think about and understand our own __beliefs__ better.
- 4. It gives us __confidence__ in what we believe.

1. Christianity is based on objective and verifiable historical __fact__

- No other religion can say this.
 - Islam - Muhammad's visions
 - Mormonism - Joseph Smith's visions
 - Jehovah's witnesses - Charles Russell's special insight into the Bible
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 - Hinduism/Buddhism – based in their personal experience of the world
 - Scientology – based on a new way of looking at the brain (not historical or verifiable)
 - Atheism – based on personal sense that God doesn't exist

2. Belief that Jesus is __God__

- No other religion says that Jesus is (the) God.
- What are some things we could believe about Jesus that would be against Christianity's belief?
That Jesus is just a good man/prophet. That Jesus is A God rather than THE God. That Jesus didn't actually become a man. That Jesus didn't die/resurrect/live perfectly.

3. We are saved by __faith__ and not by __works__

- Every other religion says you are saved by something you must perform.
- What are some things that other religions might say you must do to be saved?

4. God is a triune being (__Trinity__) > Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

(We will talk about why this is important at a later youth group)

- No other religion believes God is this way.
- What can religions believe about God's person?
 - Atheism - there is __no__ god
 - Pantheism - __Everything__ is god
 - Polytheism - there are __many__ gods
 - Monotheism - there is __one__ god
- Which of these is Christianity? Monotheism

- As we go forward with different religions, some important questions we want to ask are:

- What does this religion believe...
 - ...about God?
 - ...about man?
 - ...is wrong with the world?
 - ...has been/is being/will be done to make it right?

...is the source for knowing these things?

- How would Biblical (Orthodox) Christianity answer these questions?