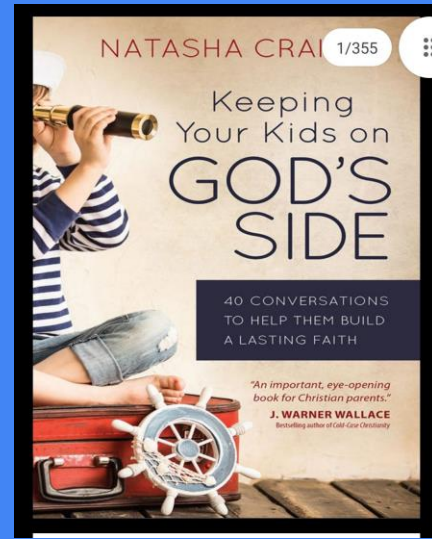


Keeping Your Kids On God's Side



40 Conversations To Help Them Build A Lasting Faith

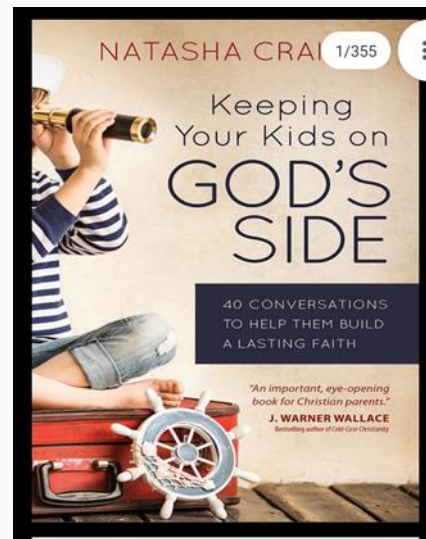


REMINDER

- OBJECTIVES

- Encourage the Church to equip themselves with answers to the difficult faith questions
 - AND
- Encourage parents to talk to their children about these topics to prepare them for the world

SOURCE MATERIAL



Grassroots Apologetics/Answers for Parents

- What is Apologetics?
 - *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect - 1 Peter 3:15 NIV*
- What is this program?
 - 40 Hot Topic conversations
 - Short overview of Answers to the difficult questions
- What this is NOT
 - Scripted final full answers
 - Continued self education is needed

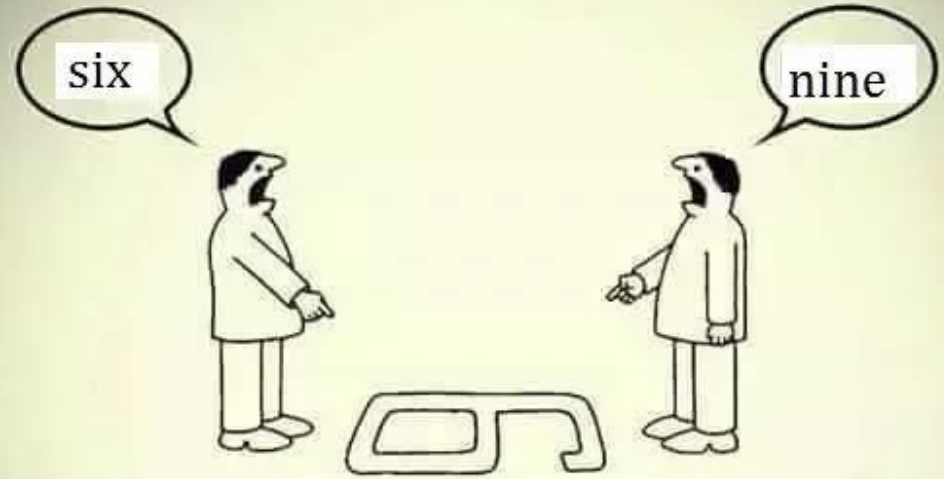
PART 2 - Conversations About truth and Worldview - Question Nine

9. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE TRUTH?

TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

- WORLD HAS CONVINCED US THE TRUTH IS NOT OBJECTIVE
- SUBJECTIVE OR RELATIVE
- CALLED POSTMODERNISM
- *IT MAY BE TRUE FOR YOU BUT IT IS NOT TRUE FOR ME*
- *LIVE/SPEAK YOUR TRUTH*

TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE



The fact that you're right does not mean that I'm wrong. You just have not seen life from my side.

TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

1) SUBJECTIVE

- SOMETHING TRUE ABOUT A SUBJECT
- DEPENDENT ON SUBJECTS OPINION
- “FROZEN YOGHURT IS BETTER THAN ICE-CREAM”

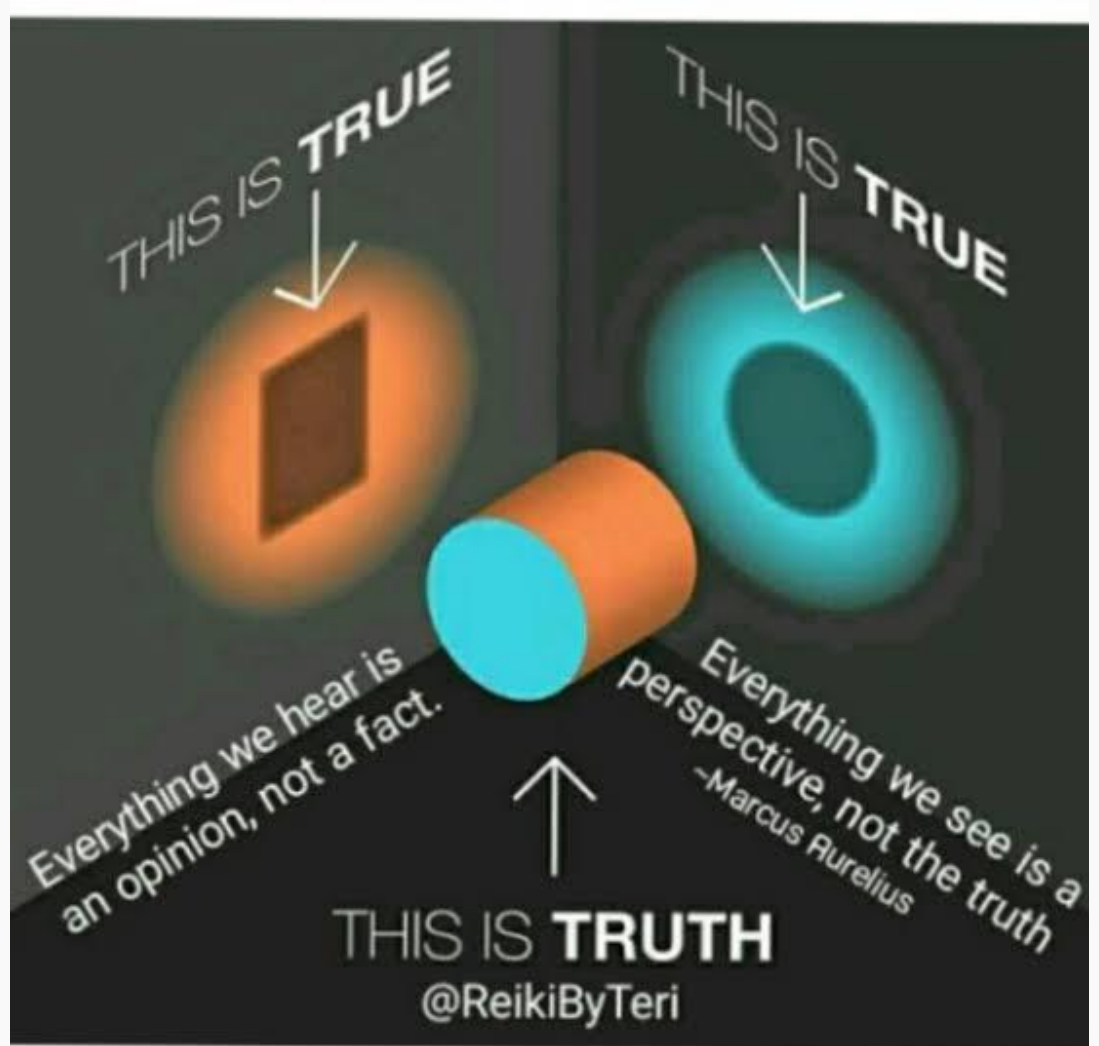
TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

- 1) SUBJECTIVE
- 2) OBJECTIVE

- SOMETHING INDEPENDENTLY TRUE FOR ALL PEOPLE
- DENY GRAVITY EXISTS, BUT JUMP OFF A BUILDING?

TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

- 1) SUBJECTIVE
- 2) OBJECTIVE



TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

- 1) SUBJECTIVE
- 2) OBJECTIVE
- 3) IMPORTANT, WHY?

- CHRISTIANITY RESTS ON THE FOUNDATION OF OBJECTIVE TRUTH
- CHRISTIAN CLAIMS ARE HARD CLAIMS
- IF OBJECTIVE TRUTH = FALSE
- THEN CHRISTIANITY = FALSE

TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

- 1) SUBJECTIVE
- 2) OBJECTIVE
- 3) IMPORTANT, WHY?
- 4) TURN THE CLAIM ON ITSELF

- HOW DO WE PROVE THAT OBJECTIVE TRUTH EXISTS?
- TURN THE CLAIM ON ITSELF!
 - *“THERE IS NO OBJECTIVE TRUTH!”*
 - *“ALL TRUTH IS RELATIVE!”*
 - *“IT’S TRUE FOR YOU BUT NOT FOR ME!”*
- SELF DEFEATING STATEMENTS

TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

- 1) SUBJECTIVE
- 2) OBJECTIVE
- 3) IMPORTANT, WHY?
- 4) TURN THE CLAIM ON ITSELF
- 5) TWO COMMON ATTACKS

- ONE: CHRISTIANS ARE INTOLERANT OF OTHER BELIEFS
- TOLERANCE: *TO BEAR WITH IDEAS OTHER THAN YOUR OWN*
- NEW: *ACCEPTING OTHER CONFLICTING IDEAS AS BEING EQUALLY TRUE TO YOUR OWN*
- OBJECTIVE TRUTH EXISTS – DOES NOT MAKE US INTOLERANT

TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

- 1) SUBJECTIVE
- 2) OBJECTIVE
- 3) IMPORTANT, WHY?
- 4) TURN THE CLAIM ON ITSELF
- 5) TWO COMMON ATTACKS

1. CHRISTIANS ARE INTOLERANT OF OTHER BELIEFS
 2. CHRISTIANS INDOCTRINATE THEIR KIDS
- INDOCTRINATION: ***“TEACHING SOMEONE TO ACCEPT THE IDEAS, OPINIONS OR BELIEFS OF A PARTICULAR GROUP AND NOT TO EVEN CONSIDER OTHER IDEAS, OPINIONS OR BELIEFS”***
 - HOW → NOT WHAT
 - NEW: ***TEACHING SOMEONE THAT THERE IS OBJECTIVE TRUTH AND ANY CLAIMS OUTSIDE OF OBJECTIVE TRUTH CANNOT ALSO BE TRUE***

TRUTH – OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE

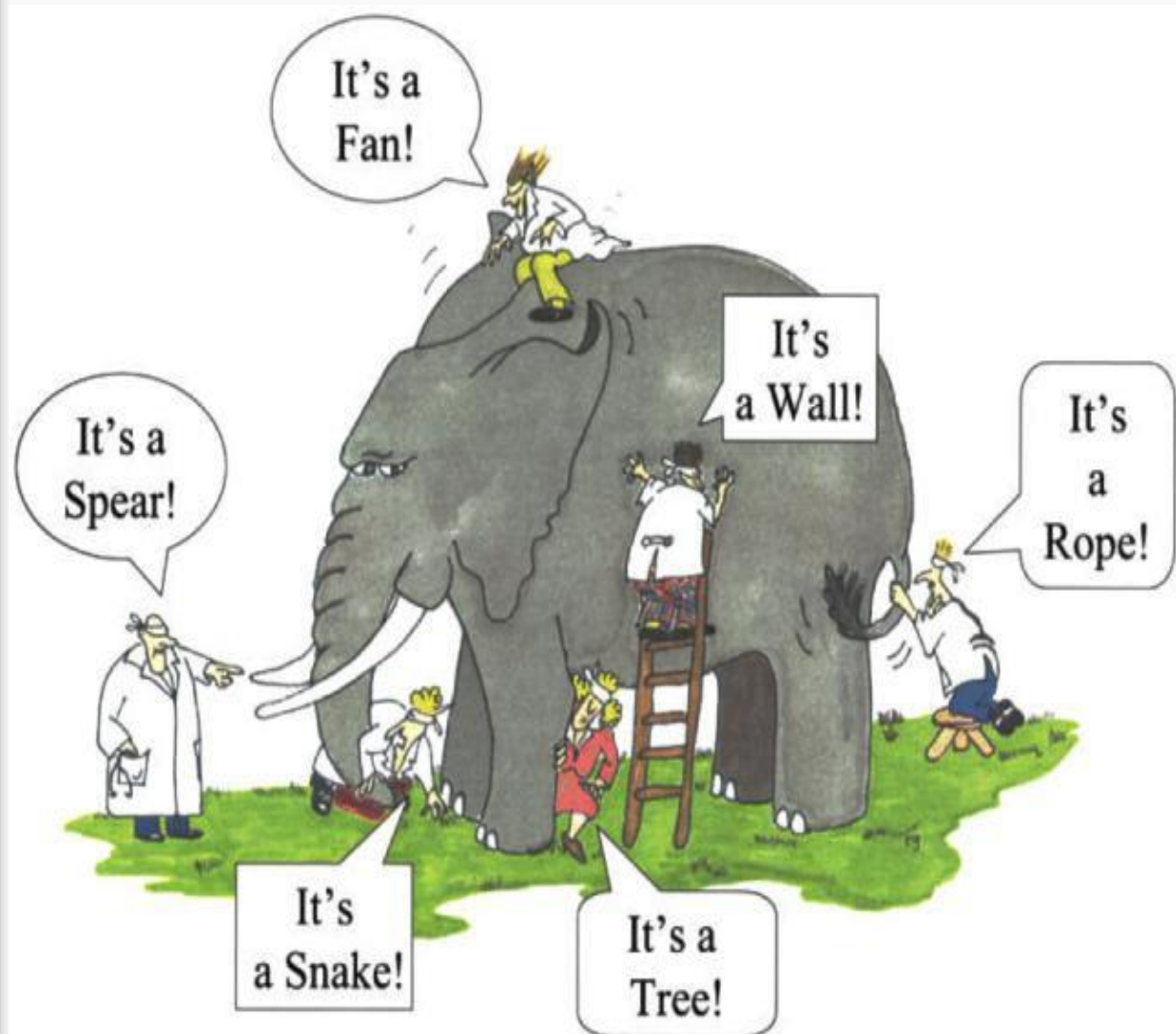
- 1) SUBJECTIVE
- 2) OBJECTIVE
- 3) IMPORTANT, WHY?
- 4) TURN THE CLAIM ON ITSELF
- 5) TWO COMMON ATTACKS
- 6) CONCLUSION

- POPULAR CULTURE
- WE HAVE TO LOVE ALL PEOPLE
- BELIEFS SHOULD NOT BE ABOUT WHAT THEY LIKE
- IT IS ABOUT OBJECTIVE TRUTH IN SPITE OF PERSONAL FEELINGS

PART 2 - Conversations About truth and Worldview - Question Ten

9. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE TRUTH?
10. DO ALL RELIGIONS POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?



POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

1) INDIAN FABLE - PLURALISM

- ILLUSTRATION OF THE FABLE
- A FACET
- A PATH
- CALLED RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

1) INDIAN FABLE - PLURALISM

- ***“WHILE CHRISTIANITY IS A VALID WAY TO ACHIEVE HIGH STATES OF SPIRITUALITY, IT MUST NOT BE CONSIDERED A UNIQUE WAY, OR A ‘CORRECT WAY’.”***
- ***“I’M A FREE-THINKING CHRISTIAN WHO BELIEVES IN MY WAY, BUT I DON’T BELIEVE IT’S THE ONLY WAY, WITH 6 BILLION PEOPLE ON THE PLANET.”***
- OPRAH WINFREY
- NOV 2005 BELIEFNET.COM POLL: ***33% OF 6,600 RESPONDENTS – “MORE PROFOUND IMPACT” ON THEIR SPIRITUAL LIVES THAN THEIR OWN CLERGYMAN***

POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

- 1) INDIAN FABLE – PLURALISM
- 2) THE SAME TRUTH

- CHRISTIANITY VERSES OTHER RELIGIONS
 - JUDAISM – JESUS MESSIAH?
 - ISLAM - MUHAMMAD
 - JEHOVAH WITNESS – THE HOLY SPIRIT
 - MORMONISM – THREE SEPARATE GODS
 - HINDUISM – REINCARNATION
- SUPERFICIALLY - SAME
- CORE - DIFFERENT

POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

- 1) INDIAN FABLE – PLURALISM
- 2) THE SAME TRUTH

- DIFFERENCES WHICH ARE MAJOR CAN BE FOUND IN THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION OF
 - ORIGIN
 - MEANING
 - MORALITY
 - DESTINY



POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

- 1) INDIAN FABLE – PLURALISM
- 2) THE SAME TRUTH

	Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism	Confucianism
Followers Worldwide*	354 million	1.9 billion	762 million	1.2 billion	14 million	Not available
Name of Deity	The Buddha did not teach a personal deity.	God	Three main Gods: Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva	God (Allah)	God (Yahweh)	Confucius (viewed by many as a god)
Founder	The Buddha	Jesus Christ	No one founder	Muhammad	Abraham	Confucius
Holy Book	No one book—sacred texts, including the <i>Perfection of Wisdom Sutra</i>	Bible	No one book—sacred texts, including the Vedas, the Puranas	Qur'an	Hebrew Bible, including the Torah	the <i>Analects</i> , the Five Classics
Leadership	Buddhist monks and nuns	Clergy (priests/ministers)	Guru, Holy Man, Brahmin priest	No clergy	Rabbis	No Clergy
Basic Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Persons achieve complete peace and happiness, known as nirvana, by eliminating their attachment to worldly things. •Nirvana is reached by following the Noble Eightfold Path: Right views; Right aspirations; Right speech; Right conduct; Right livelihood; Right endeavor; Right mindfulness; Right meditation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. •Jesus Christ was the son of God. He died to save humanity from sin. His death and resurrection made eternal life possible for others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The soul never dies, but is continually reborn. •Persons achieve happiness and enlightenment after they free themselves from their earthly desires. •Freedom from earthly desires comes from a lifetime of worship, knowledge, and virtuous acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Persons achieve salvation by following the Five Pillars of Islam and living a just life. These pillars are: faith; almsgiving, or charity to the poor; fasting, which Muslims perform during Ramadan; pilgrimage (to Mecca); and prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. •God loves and protects his people, but also holds people accountable for their sins and shortcomings. •Persons serve God by studying the Torah and living by its teachings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Social order, harmony, and good government should be based on strong family relationships. •Respect for parents and elders is important to a well-ordered society. •Education is important both to the welfare of the individual and to society.

POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

- 1) **INDIAN FABLE – PLURALISM**
- 2) **THE SAME TRUTH**
- 3) **SOME TRUE BELIEFS?**

- **FINE DISTINCTION**
 - **REALITY LOGICAL IMPOSSIBILITY – POINT TO GOD**
 - **NOT SAYING EVERY BELIEF IS FALSE**
 - **CHRISTIAN/MUSLIM/JEW – ALL AGREE**
THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD
- **COMPARE THE TOTALITY OF THEIR BELIEFS**
- **IRRECONCILABLE CLAIMS**

POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

- 1) **INDIAN FABLE – PLURALISM**
- 2) **THE SAME TRUTH**
- 3) **THE LURE**

- **IT HAS LURE BECAUSE:**
 1. **MAKES SENSE... ON THE SURFACE**
 2. **RELIGIOUS CONVERSATION POLITICALLY CORRECT**
 3. **MORAL TEACHINGS**

POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?

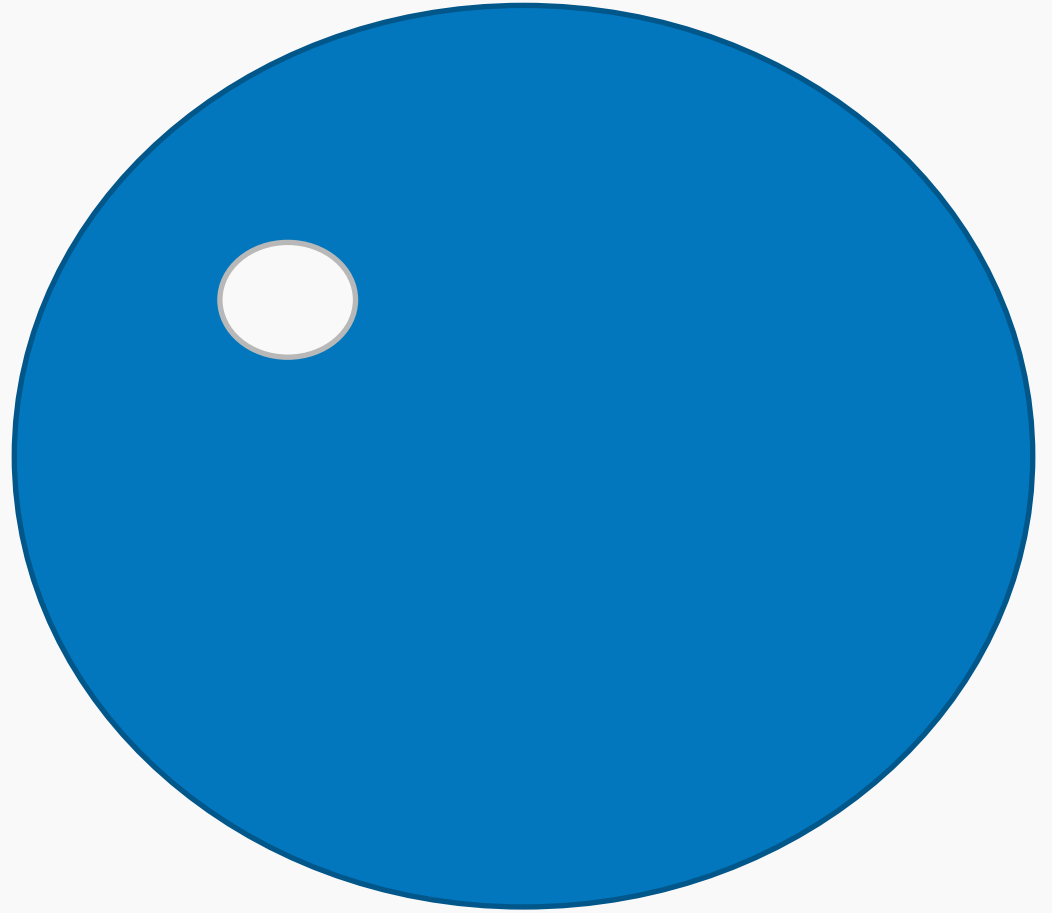
- 1) INDIAN FABLE – PLURALISM
- 2) THE SAME TRUTH
- 3) THE LURE
- 4) CONCLUSION

- WE ARE NOT AND DON'T HAVE TO BE THE BLIND MEN
- WHAT IF THE ELEPHANT SPEAKS? FALLS APART
 - ✓ THERE IS A GOD
 - ✓ HE HAS SPOKEN
 - ✓ WE HAVE A RECORD OF WHAT HE SPOKE
 - ✓ WE CALL IT THE BIBLE

PART 2 - Conversations About truth and Worldview - Question Eleven

9. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE TRUTH?
10. DO ALL RELIGIONS POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?
11. HOW CAN CHRISTIANS CLAIM THEY KNOW WHAT IS OBJECTIVELY TRUE?

CHRISTIANS CLAIM
THEY KNOW
OBJECTIVE TRUTH



CHRISTIANS CLAIM THEY KNOW OBJECTIVE TRUTH

1) HOW DO WE KNOW?

- QUESTION NINE: **OBJECTIVE TRUTH EXISTS**
- QUESTION TEN: **ALL RELIGIONS CANNOT POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH**
- HOW CHRISTIANITY KNOWS IT HAS OBJECTIVE TRUTH
- HOW DO WE “KNOW” SOMETHING
 - ACQUAINTANCE
 - COMPETENCY
 - PROPOSITIONAL
- RELIGION = PROPOSITIONAL

CHRISTIANS CLAIM THEY KNOW OBJECTIVE TRUTH

- 1) **HOW DO WE KNOW?**
- 2) **PROPOSITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

- **PROPOSITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IS JUSTIFIED TRUE BELIEF**
 - **BELIEF – TRUE OR RIGHT?**
 - **JUSTIFIED – GOOD REASONS**
 - **TRUE – OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE**
- **ATHEISTS CLAIM – NO EVIDENCE**
- **CHRISTIANITY CLAIM – OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE**

CHRISTIANS CLAIM THEY KNOW OBJECTIVE TRUTH

- 1) **HOW DO WE KNOW?**
- 2) **PROPOSITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**
- 3) **FOUR KEY TAKE-AWAYS**

1. **NOT ONLY BELIEVE – HAVE JUSTIFICATION**
2. **GOOD REASONS**
3. **ARTICULATE THE GOOD REASON – LIFELONG JOURNEY**
4. **EVALUATE AND CONSIDER**

CHRISTIANS CLAIM THEY KNOW OBJECTIVE TRUTH

- 1) HOW DO WE KNOW?
- 2) PROPOSITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
- 3) FOUR KEY TAKE-AWAYS
- 4) CONCLUSION

- ***WE DO NOT NEED TO PROVE CHRISTIANITY ABOVE ANY POSSIBLE DOUBT. WE ONLY NEED TO PROVE IT TRUE BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT.***
- NEVER HAVE ABSOLUTE PROOF
- DO HAVE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE
- CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE

PART 2 - Conversations About truth and Worldview - Question Twelve

9. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE TRUTH?
10. DO ALL RELIGIONS POINT TO THE SAME TRUTH?
11. HOW CAN CHRISTIANS CLAIM THEY KNOW WHAT IS OBJECTIVELY TRUE?
12. HOW CAN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HELP DETERMINE WHAT IS TRUE?

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- DO THE EXPERIENCES WE HAVE WITH GOD (OR LACK THEREOF) CONSTITUTE GOOD REASONS FOR OUR SPIRITUAL BELIEFS?
- MUCH MORE TO OFFER THAN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IS IMPORTANT
- BALANCE OF THE TWO
- WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

- 1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- 2) THE HOLY SPIRIT

- COMMON TO ALL BELIEVERS?
- THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- ***“HOPE DOES NOT PUT US TO SHAME, BECAUSE GOD’S LOVE HAS BEEN POURED INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US” (ROMANS 5:5).***
- ***“BECAUSE YOU ARE SONS, GOD HAS SENT THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO OUR HEARTS, CRYING, ‘ABBA! FATHER!’” (GALATIANS 4:6).***
- ***“OUR GOSPEL CAME TO YOU NOT ONLY IN WORD, BUT ALSO IN POWER AND IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH FULL CONVICTION” (1 THESSALONIANS 1:5).***
- AN IMPORTANT FOUNDATION

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

- 1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- 2) THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 3) TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES

A. CONTRADICTORY RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES

- THREE POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS:

1. ALL FALSE
2. POINT TO A COMMON CORE TRUTH
3. SOME TRUE AND SOME FALSE

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

- 1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- 2) THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 3) TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES

- A. CONTRADICTORY RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES
- B. ATTRIBUTED TO SOME BRAIN ACTIVITY
 - SEEING BRAIN ACTIVITY DOES NOT MEAN GOD DOES NOT EXIST

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

- 1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- 2) THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 3) TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES
- 4) CAUTION

A. DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE NEED TO HAVE OTHER GOOD REASONS FOR FAITH

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

- 1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- 2) THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 3) TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES
- 4) CAUTION

- A. DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE NEED TO HAVE OTHER GOOD REASONS FOR FAITH
- B. AUTHENTIC SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE ALIGN WITH THE BIBLE

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

- 1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- 2) THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 3) TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES
- 4) CAUTION

- A. DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE NEED TO HAVE OTHER GOOD REASONS FOR FAITH
- B. AUTHENTIC SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE ALIGN WITH THE BIBLE
 - E.G. DEAN PARAVE
 - ***“GOD HAS PUT ME HERE TO SPREAD HIS WORD AND OUR LIFESTYLE COMMUNITY IS A GREAT PLACE TO DO IT.”***
- A. A LACK OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IS NOT EVIDENCE AGAINST GOD
 - REVEAL HIMSELF THROUGH JESUS (JOHN 3:16)

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

- 1) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- 2) THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 3) TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES
- 4) CAUTION
- 5) CONCLUSION

- A. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS COMMON TO ALL BELIEVERS
- B. NO REASON TO DENY THE VALIDITY OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
- C. STRONGLY VALUE ADDITION REASONS

QUESTIONS



NEXT WEEK

13. How can common sense help determine what is true?

14. If Christianity is true, why are there so many denominations?

15. Is Christianity responsible for millions of deaths in history?

16. Are Christians less intelligent than atheists?

