

GOD, I HAVE A QUESTION..



Week 3 & 4: How do we know that Christianity is the best way?

Acts 17:16-34

This message was delivered in the Worship Center on 4/21 and in Access on 4/28.

1. What convinced you that Christianity is better or more true than all the other religions? If you have not come to that conclusion yet, where are you at the decision process?
2. Pastor Tim said that pluralism (we should accept many different belief systems) and absolute truth (there is only one truth and all others are incorrect) are opposing view points in the question. How have you encountered pluralism in our society? As we evaluate Christianity and other religions, why is accepting absolute truth essential? How can we help a pluralistic society recognize the flaws of pluralism and embrace absolute truth?
3. How can we follow the model Paul gives us in Acts 17 for interacting with a pluralistic culture?
 - How do verses 22-23 and 28 show an awareness of the Athenian culture? What would it look like for us to have this kind of awareness? How can we get better at this?
 - The second part of Paul's strategy took him to the synagogue to interact with those that were already interested in God but may not know about Jesus. Who do you know that falls into the spiritual or religious category but does not know Jesus? Are you being intentional to tell them about Jesus? If not, what is stopping you?
 - The last part of Paul's strategy took him into the marketplace to interact with those that knew nothing of God or Jesus. What can we learn about this process in these verses? Is it more difficult for you to talk to "religious" people about Jesus or the "nones"? Looking at your distinct gifts and talents, how can you engage the "nones" in our community?
4. According to verse 16, what was Paul's motivation for learning about the Athenian culture and engaging people in dialogue? On a scales of 1-10 (1 is lowest), how distressed are you on an average day for the people around you who do not know Jesus? How can we develop this more in our hearts? Pray together that God will give you more distress for the lost people around you and commit yourself to following Paul's example to reach them with the good news of Jesus.