

the Venues

Go Deep

“Finding Neverland”

Kids & Conversion

June 4, 2017

If you're a parent, what's your biggest worry when it comes to your kids?

What did you do, as a kid, to cause your parents to worry?

When did you first hear about Jesus? What reason was given for you to be “converted” or to “follow Him?”

Why do you think 25% of Americans identify as “none” when it comes to religious affiliation?

Why do you think so many young adults are leaving the church and the faith (Christianity)?

What does it mean to you to follow Jesus?

What has been your experience with the “Sinner’s Prayer”?

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name.”

What are the positives and negatives of the prayer?

What do you think about asking children to repeat this prayer in order to “convert”?

Two questions represent two ways of understanding “conversion.”

“Have you made decision to receive Christ as your personal Savior?”

“Are you walking with Jesus?”

The first question sees conversion primarily as a moment in time.

The second question sees conversion primarily as a process of living like Jesus.

Take a look at the following verses: John 14:6; Acts 9:2; Acts 19:9,23; Acts 22:4; Acts 24:14,22.

What were the Christians called?

What is the significance of that name?

What does that name say about the meaning of conversion?

Read the quotes from the writings of early Christianity and discuss how they fit with the Way.

Justin Martyr (ca.100 - ca.165), “We who formerly... valued above all things the acquisition of wealth and possession, now bring what we have into a common stock, and communicate to everyone in need; we who hated and destroyed one another, and on account of their different manners would not live with men of a different tribe, now, since the coming of Christ, live familiarly with them, and pray for our enemies.”

The Didache (ca. 100/ 120 CE), an ancient Christian instructional manual, opens with these words: “There are two ways, one of life and one of death, but a great difference between the two ways. The way of life, then, is this: First, you shall love God who made you; second, love your neighbor as yourself, and do not do to another what you would not want done to you.”

John Chrysostom (ca.349- ca. 407), “This is the rule of most perfect Christianity, its most exact definition, its highest point, namely, the seeking of the common good...for nothing can so make a person an imitation of Christ as caring for his neighbors.”

History has seen three basic ways of conversion -

-Socialization - See Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

-Liturgical Process - Catechism, confirmation

-Personal decision

Which way fits best with your understanding of conversion?