

Good Conversations

Gospel Conversations – Part 6

Colossians 4:2-6; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 4-16-17

Summary

We need to be prepared for gospel conversations.

We should know a basic gospel outline.

We should be flexible.

We should try to fill out our knowledge.

We should listen to understand the other person's worldview.

We should listen to understand the other person's basis for acceptance with God.

Understanding the religious background of a person can help us in understanding their worldview.

And it can help us to understand how they may misunderstand Christianity.

The bottom line is: *How can a sinner be right in the sight of a holy God?*

The World Religions

What do they believe about God?

What is their ultimate goal?

How do they intend to reach their goal?

God?

No God (Buddhism, Atheism)

Man is God (New Age)

Many Gods (Hinduism, Spiritism)

Everything is God (Pantheism)

One God (Islam, Judaism, Christianity)

Don't Know (Postmodernism, Nones)

Goal?

Rebirth or Nirvana (Buddhism)

Reincarnation or Brahman (Hinduism)
Paradise or Hell (Islam, Judaism)
Heaven or Hell (Christianity)
Become a God (New Age)
Enjoy this World (Postmodernism, Nones, Atheism)
Appease the Spirits (Spiritism)

Good Works?

Moderation; Principles; Meditation (Buddhism)
Devotion to a god or goddess; rites; meditation (Hinduism)
5 Pillars: Creed, 5 Daily Prayers, Alms, Month of Fasting, Pilgrimage to Mecca (Islam)
Sabbath; 10 Commandments; Old Testament (Judaism)
Faith alone but not a faith that is without good works (Christianity)
Eastern mysticism; breathing exercises; chanting; altered-consciousness (New Age)
Stewardship of the Earth; Tolerance; rejection of truth and moral absolutes (Postmodernism, Nones, Atheism)

The Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:16-26

Romans 3:10-12

No one is Good – compared to God and perfection. (Matthew 5:20-22; 27-28, 43-48; 1 John 1:5; James 2:10-11; Romans 3:23; 6:23)

God is just so our sin must be seen in light of the just punishment it deserves.

What I deserve is what Jesus suffered on the cross. (Romans 5:6-9; 1 Peter 3:18).

The physical is a picture of what is actually worse spiritually. (Matthew 13:50; 22:13; Mark 9:48; Revelation 14:10)

Only Two Ways to find acceptance with God

1. My Good Works (I earn my acceptance with God)
2. His Finished Work (God does what I can't do for myself)

All world religions except one follow #1.

The only world religion (in its true form) that follows #2: Christianity.