

World Religions & The Gospel

Sermon Series: Taboo Topics & The Gospel

God is against our worship of other idols or gods.

God is against our worship of self.

God alone is worthy of worship.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- This issue is foundational. It means eternity in Heaven or hell.

“An inadequate view of God is actually idolatry. To worship anything less than what God has revealed Himself to be is idolatry.” A.W. Tozer

Why is this such a big deal?

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

What is the source of truth:

- Revelation 19, John 1 - Jesus is the Word of God. All of it, not just the red letters.
- We have ALL the revelation of God, in His Holy Word, that we need.

What do you do with Jesus:

- **The most critical question in life you can answer is: Who is Jesus?**

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

- Jesus is God. “I AM.”

Religion vs. Relationship:

- Grace not works.

“Jesus is not the man at the top of the stairs; He is the man at the bottom, the friend of sinners, the savior of those in need of one. Which is all of us, all of the time.” - Tullian Tchividjian

Acts 16:30-31 Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”

- **Disciples of Christ obey and follow Jesus BECAUSE they have been saved...not SO they will be saved.**

Catholicism:

- Agrees with many foundational Christian beliefs. But Martin Luther in 1517 nails his 95 Theses to the doors of All Saints Church in Wittenberg.
- The church is supreme in written scripture and unwritten tradition.

- Veneration of Mary. Perpetual Virginity of Mary. Assumption of Mary (Queen of Heaven)

Luke 11: 27-28 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

- Praying to the saints.
- Kneel to images; Confession to a priest for absolution of sins.
- Penance, selling of indulgences for purgatory.
- **Tradition and works trump Scripture and faith.**

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Islam:

- Rapid growth, especially in Europe, other places. Often violent.
- One almighty God, named Allah; Sovereign, powerful, and strict.
- Mercy towards the followers depends on the sufficiency of their life's good works and religious devotion.
- Muslims honors several prophets, Muhammad is considered the last prophet and his words and lifestyle are authority.
- Muslims have the following five religious duties: 1. Repeat a creed about Allah and Muhammad; 2. Recite certain prayers in Arabic five times a day; 3. Give to the needy; 4. One month each year, fast from food, drink, sex and smoking from sunrise to sunset; 5. Pilgrimage once in one's lifetime to worship at a shrine in Mecca. At death -- based on one's faithfulness to these duties -- a Muslim hopes to enter Paradise. If not, they will be eternally punished in hell.
- Salvation is not secure.

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

Jehovah's Witnesses:

- Only Jehovah is to be worshipped.
- Jesus was "a god", not the God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- Only 144,000 saved.
- The Magi worshipped Jesus. Others worshipped Him and He did not forbid them.

John 20:27-28 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

- Jesus is God, a member of the Trinity, and He is worthy to be worshipped!

Mormonism:

- Caring, family oriented, Christ centered.
- Began in 1820 with visitations of messengers from heaven to young Joseph Smith Jr.
- Law of Eternal Progression "As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become."
- Elohim
- Jesus and Lucifer are brothers.
- By maintaining a rigid code of financial and moral requirements, and through performing secret temple rituals for themselves and the dead, the Latter-day Saints hope to prove their worthiness and become gods. Everyone must stand before the judgment of Joseph Smith, the Mormon Jesus, and Elohim.
- "...no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God **without the consent of Joseph Smith**.... Every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance... I cannot go there without his consent.... He reigns there as **supreme a being** in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as **God** does in heaven."

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Summary:

- The Bible can be trusted. We don't need other books or revelations.
- Jesus is God. He is the Messiah; the only one able to reconcile us to the Father.
- Salvation is by the grace of God, through faith. Not works.

Romans 4:5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

It's not works. It's not how many doors you've knocked on or people you've witnessed to. It's not through Mary. It's not through Joseph Smith. It's not through allegiance to Mohammed.

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we may be saved.