

GRACE CHAPEL

LIFE Community Sermon Notes



Religion in America:
Still haven't found
what you're looking for?

Big Idea: Christianity is unique among all the other religions of the world.

Key Verse: JN 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Opening Question: Have you ever been through a season in your life when you weighed the truth claims of Christianity and compared them to the claims of other religions? What was that time like for you and what conclusions did you come to?

Study/Discussion Questions:

- At the beginning of Pastor Bryan's message, he posed the question, "What makes Christianity different from every other religion." How would you have answered that question?
- The sermon mentioned four differences between historic Biblical Christianity and every other religion. Below are those four distinctives. Read each one and answer the questions following each of the four:
 1. The difference between "What" and "Who" - other religions focus primarily on a set of beliefs, behaviors, and ceremonies. The focus of Christianity is on relationship with God.
 - Read Matthew 22:35-40
 - Who was asking Jesus the question and what was he really trying to get from Jesus?
 - How did Jesus' answer blow away this man's paradigm?
 - In what ways do your beliefs, behaviors, or ceremonies find as their focus a "who" rather than a "what"?
 2. The difference between "Something to think about" and "Something happened". Most religious systems are based on ideas, philosophies or views of morality. Christianity is based on something that happened in human history that demands explanation and human response.
 - Read Acts 2:22-24
 - What was Peter appealing to in order for his words to gain credibility at this point of his sermon? What happened that demanded people to respond?
 - How different would Christianity be if we were only to follow the teachings of Jesus and deny his death and resurrection?

3. The difference between “Do” and “Done”. Most religions are based on the idea that we have to do something to get right with the Almighty. Christianity teaches that everything necessary for a person to have a relationship with God has already been done by God.
 - Read Romans 3:21-25a
 - How does Paul’s description of God’s work defeat our own personal attempts to ‘earn’ our own salvation?
 - What difference has this truth made in your own relationship with God?

4. The difference between “A teacher” and “A savior”. Most religions have a key figure who’s life and teaching are foundational for a new movement—most of them never claim to be anything other than a human being. Jesus made it very clear that he came to earth not just to teach us, but to save us from ourselves, one another, and the fallen world we live in.
 - Read John 3:16-18
 - What makes this teaching of Jesus so extraordinary, in your estimation?
 - In what ways is Jesus the central answer to the question posed at the beginning of the sermon: “What makes Christianity different from every other religion.”
 - How has the reality of Jesus made a difference in your life?