



Week Seven “Tag Team Preach”

Isn’t Christianity just a psychological crutch?

- What reaction do you receive when you tell other people that you are a Christian?
- Freud refers to religious beliefs as ‘illusions, fulfilments of the oldest, strongest and most urgent wishes of mankind. Does Christianity seem like wish fulfilment to you? Why/Why not?
- Atheist Philosopher Thomas Nagel said “I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and naturally hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope that there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that.” What do you think of this quote? Why might Nagel hope that there isn’t a God?
- Read Matthew 16:24 what do you think it means to take up your cross? How did Jesus disciples live this out?
- Quadriplegic Joni Eareckson-Tada said “I believe in Jesus not because it is easy but because it is true. If Christianity was false, it would be a useless crutch. At least alcohol works, even if only for a short time. But if Christianity is true, it is a cure not a crutch.” In what way is Christianity the cure?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 how do Paul’s words to the Corinthians bring us comfort?

If Jesus is the only way to God, what about those who have never heard about Jesus?

- Read 2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 4:12; John 4:16; 3:16-17; 1 Tim. 2:3-6; 1 Pet. 3:15-16; Matt. 22:37; Rom. 1:20; Gen. 15:6

- If Jesus is the only way to God, then how might those who have never heard of Jesus be saved? Do you believe that those who are born into other cultures and religions are spiritually disadvantaged?
- Do you think it is possible to live in a so-called Christian country and never to have heard the gospel message?
- In which way are OT heroes of faith in the same position as those who have not heard the gospel message? How did Abram demonstrate his faith (the faith that was credited to him as righteous)?
- Does ignorance disqualify grace?
- What did Steve mean when he stated that “we are justified by faith not by our belief in justification by faith”?
- If God might accept the “faith” of people who have not heard of Christ (through creation or conscience), then is it better not to tell them about Jesus?

Aren't Christians narrow-minded?

- 20th century social-activist Emma Goldman called Christianity “the leveller of the human race, the breaker of man’s will to dare and to do ...an iron net, a straight jacket which does not expand or grow.” What might have lead her to say these things?
- Read John 8:31-34 Why did the Jews have a problem with Jesus offer of freedom? What does it mean to be a slave to sin?
- Dan said “When Jesus talks about finding freedom, it is not the absence of a controlling authority but it is the presence of the right one.” What sorts of things have you allowed to have control of your life in the past?
- Read John 10:10 What do you think it means to have life to the full?
- Read Matthew 22:36-40 Why do you think that these two commandments are the most important?
- What does Paul want the Corinthians to understand when he tells them ““I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.”?