

Counterfeits of Christianity

12-18-19

1. Secular religions (atheism, agnosticism, secular humanism, naturalism, etc.) have reached a unique status in the West today. (Psalm 53:1)
2. The 1800's brought about an explosion of these religions in various forms.
3. For example: Charles Lyell - 1830's (geological evolution or "millions of years") and Charles Darwin - 1859 (biological evolution from a common ancestor)
4. We see the fruit of these religious views in our culture today - and it is growing.
5. They are dominating areas of life and culture such as: media, education, law, museums, sexual expression - and the minds of the next generation.
6. Churches in the West who for years have sent missionaries out to the field - are now crumbling at a foundational level - due in part to the influence of secularism.
7. Many secularists live their lives borrowing from God's Word - even though they fail to realize it.
8. So - if people are merely evolved creatures and there is no God who sets right and wrong - then why wear clothes, why get married, or why bother with education at all, etc.
9. Tolerance of every religion is not the same as "accepting every religion as true."
10. So - how does the Bible view other religions?
11. Religious consciousness is a product of two things: (Romans 1:18-20)
 - A. God's revelation
 - B. Suppression of that revelation
12. Misdirected religion is an idolatrous response to God's revelation. (1 Peter 3:13-17)
13. When we give a defense or reason for the "hope" that is in us - we have to remember that our hope is in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
14. It has been noted that all the other religions in the world are based on what a person must do to achieve the ultimate state - while Christianity is a religion that is based on what has been done for us in Jesus Christ.
15. Do not be intimidated or afraid to use your Bible.
16. Let Scripture speak to the authority of the God of the universe who created all things and rules over all things.
17. In Proverbs 26:4-5 we are given a strategy for dealing with those who are foolishly denying God's existence or pursuing false gods to serve and worship.
18. The issue is the foundation upon which their religious belief system is built. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Conclusion:

So - all of the religions apart from Christianity are divided as follows:

- A. Counterfeits of Christianity - religions that look or act much like Christianity but deviate from the truth in some way, like Mormonism, Islam, Satanism, etc.
- B. Moralistic Religions - religions that teach a moral code that have no god - like Buddhism or Confucianism - or if they do have "gods" they are only slightly above humanity - like some forms of paganism and mythologies.
- C. Mystical Religions - Eastern thought like Hinduism, Taoism, Sikhism, or New Age.
- D. Materialistic/Atheistic Religions - Secular humanism, atheism, agnosticism, hedonism, Epicureanism, etc.