

SERIES: LETTERS FROM A SKEPTIC

TITLE: "How to Live UPRIGHT in an UPSIDE Down World"

Pastor Joel Spiridigliozzi / May 2, 2010

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PLURALISM believes...

- Religious views are culturally conditioned and because of this all roads lead to the same God.

- Truth is relative...we can only tell what is true for us.

EXCLUSIVISM believes...

- God's salvation is only on the basis of Christ's work and through explicit faith in him.

- Jesus said:

→ "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

→ "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

→ "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9)

Our Response to PLURALISM:

→ It is contradictory for the pluralist to say people should not make exclusive truth claims.

→ Where do you draw the line with relativism? If truth is relative to every individual...Does that include flying airplanes in people filled towers?

→ No amount of tolerance permits belief in contradictory statements.

Jonah 4:10, 11

"You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

How to Live UPRIGHT in an UPSIDE Down World

1. 'WHO' over 'WHAT'

- Concentrate on the 'who' rather than the 'what' of Christianity. Ultimately the 'who' must carry the 'what.'

- *"The very heart of the Biblical vision for the unity of humankind is that its center is not an imperial power but the slain Lamb."*

– Leslie Newbigin

- Christianity is Christ, no other religious teacher ever claimed to be God his claim is unique. Christianity is unique because Christ is unique.

2. 'GOODNESS' over 'RIGHTNESS'

- The question isn't so much whether we're right but whether we're good.

3. 'DIALOGUE' over 'MONOLOGUE'

- No one has the right to teach if they cannot learn from others.

- Humanity is fundamentally one, facing the same perplexities and problems.

- The fundamental need of the human heart is redemption – life is not what it ought to be.

4. 'PASSION' over 'PASSIVITY'

- Relevant engagement of culture, when borne out of the heart of God, is less about marketing and more about passion.

- 1 Corinthians 9:20-23; Romans 9:1-5

5. 'GENTLENESS' over 'ARROGANCE'

- Christ-followers are not immune from arrogance and bigotry. Yet arrogance and bigotry have no ally in Christ.

- 1 Peter 3:15; Isaiah 42:3