

Hillcrest Life Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, October 11, 2020



Doesn't Christianity Lead to an
Intolerance of Other Beliefs?

Acts 4:1-12

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Get to Know You

What is an annoying habit that you can't tolerate?

Study the Book

Read Acts 4:1-12

How has religion caused conflict in the world (personal or global)?

How has trying to eliminate religion caused conflict?

How has religion brought good into the world?

What is pluralism?

How is pluralism just as "arrogant" and "morally superior" as pluralists' claims of exclusive religion? (Elephant Illustration)

Common Grace – Christianity provides a firm basis for respecting people of other faiths.

Read Romans 1:18-20 & 2:1-4

These verses teach that even without the benefit of the Bible some truths can intuitively be known about God. So, it is no surprise we find elements of truth in every religion. This is especially true in ethics--what we "ought" to do.

- List things Christians have in common with others, even if the others don't read or believe the Bible.

Application Question

- How can Christians work together with people of other faiths (and people of no faith) to make our community and our world a better place?

Saving Grace – The gospel teaches that our salvation comes by grace alone.

Read Romans 3:22-24.

The more we realize that we were saved by grace and not by personal worth or works, the more gracious we can be to others. Why is this true?

The Example of Jesus – Why would such an exclusive belief system lead to behavior that was so open to others? It was because Christians had within their belief system the strongest possible source for practicing sacrificial service, generosity, and peace-making.

Read Colossians 1:19-22.

Application Question:

Jesus died at the hands of opponents while asking God to forgive them because they didn't know what they were doing. How can this truth move us to be agents of peace in the world?

Personal Reflection and Application

In our diverse city, the question of what Christians think of other religions will be one of the most asked by seekers. How can you better prepare yourself to deal with this question?