



"CRASH GOES THE CULTURES"

10/19/2014

Three things to consider in an offensive passage...

_____ : Luke 4:16, Mark 10:43-44, Matthew 8:5-9

_____ : Mark 15:40-41, Luke 24:1-3

_____ : Mark 5:24-34

_____ over the teachings of Jesus actually are evidence pointing in the direction of the authenticity of what is recorded in the gospels.

1 Corinthians 1:23-25 (NIV)

Three *directions* of the evidence

Christ offers more that of a _____, or _____
_____ for living.

He offers a _____ what is really going on.

A _____ that infuses every inch of a person's life.



STUDY QUESTIONS

Use these questions in your community group or personal study time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

Most of us have heard – and maybe even said – that the teachings of the New Testament are just too out-of-date. They don't address the values, needs, or enlightened thinking of our times. In fact the scriptures, we are told, do more harm than good these days for the rights of people.

On the other hand, C.S. Lewis once said that anything that is not timeless is eternally out-of-date. And here we are 2000 years later still studying, reading, and following the teachings of Jesus Christ. Does the "the Bible just isn't fair" argument hold water?

Let's be honest, there *are* socially controversial passages in the gospels. Sometimes these texts are *extremely* controversial, even offensive. What are we to do with those?

In our part of the world of Portland, Oregon the most common objection heard on the street as to why Christianity just can't be true is *offensive Bible texts*. At the very least, it shouldn't be followed.

We need to address the issue honestly if we hope to understand and defend our faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you enjoy reading memoirs? In what way does knowing a story is true enhance your reading? What are the signs a person's testimony is true? Exaggerated or imagined?
2. Who or what assigns value to each human life (family? government? culture?)? In this culture, what standard is used to measure personal value? How do you think Jesus measured the value of each life he encountered?
3. In the gospels, are there teachings of Jesus (or the interpretation of events by the authors) that you find hardest to swallow? Why?
 - a. How about the rest of the New Testament?
4. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 25 together.** What do you think Paul is trying to say about the "controversial" teachings in the gospels and the New Testaments as a whole?
 - a. What are the biggest controversies the Bible generates today?
 - b. Does Paul answer why those elements of the Scripture are controversial to your satisfaction? Why or why not?
5. When you hear the "experts" in school, or the media (or even self-described, internet educated experts), what do you think? How about when you hear that the Christian God is a farce that no thinking person could follow? How do you feel at those times (sad? uneasy? Calm? Apathetic? Ready to start WWII? Guilty for not trusting the experts?)
6. How can the people in the group support you, in prayer, with in their praying as we consider together how to express and authentically live your belief this week?

MOVING FORWARD

Controversial parts of Jesus's teaching aren't *bad* just because we feel uncomfortable or because they make us think. In fact challenging our "I'll do it myself without God" tendencies is a good thing – if it graciously brings us to the truth. Let Jesus' teaching have the full effect on your life.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. 1 Corinthians 1:25 (NIV)

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23-25