

Dave Gustavsen – **I Have a Friend Who Believes** ALL RELIGIONS ARE THE SAME
Sermon Based Questions - January 25, 2015

Introduction:

1. We often assume that all members of a group are alike in certain ways. When have you been surprised to encounter an individual member of a group who differed from your assumption of what people in that group are like?
2. When have you been surprised when someone who you thought only said wrong and useless stuff came out with something that was helpful and worthwhile?

Understanding:

3. Sometimes zealous believers—including Christians—can be very quick to dismiss everything about another faith. Read Acts 17:22-31 where Paul talks to unbelievers on Mars Hill in Athens. What is Paul's attitude towards the religious beliefs of his listeners? How does he try to contrast their belief with belief in the Lord Jesus?
4. Traditional Hindus believed that poor and struggling people were simply receiving karma for the wrongs they had done in past lives, and therefore why help them? Read Luke 15:1-7 about the lost sheep. What are the differences between karma and what Jesus teaches here?
5. A good Buddhist will tell you that the main problem in life is that we have these desires, or cravings, and that always leads to dissatisfaction. So the goal in life is to progress to a point where we no longer desire anything. Read James 4:2-3 for a warning against the wrong kind of desire. But then read Psalm 37:1-4. How is this a wonderful opposite to not desiring anything?
6. C.S. Lewis said that Christianity is the only religion that has grace. Read what Romans 11:6 says about our salvation. How does this make Lewis' point about grace come alive?
7. Dave quoted Schaeffer's example where everyone will be silent—because no one has consistently lived up to the standards that were written on their hearts. Habakkuk 2 describes ways that people live without calling on the Lord. God finally calls people to attention in verse 20. How does this compare to the point of the Schaeffer story?
8. It is not Buddha who delivers you; it is his Noble Truths that instruct you. It is not Mohammed who transforms you; it is the beauty of the Koran that woos you. Read John 14:6, John 10:9-11 and John 11:25. What is the huge difference between Christianity and those other religions that is seen in these verses?
9. We have received Christ. In Acts 4:12 it says "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." How can we best express that truth without coming off as arrogant? Hint: read Romans 3:23.

Application:

10. Dave emphasized: "the cross is the place where Jesus showed who He is more than any other place". How can you best explain that truth to someone who hasn't heard it or does not understand why it is important?
11. This week dwell on how much we've been forgiven. Let that empower you to start extending to others the grace that we've received from God. Pray that, this week, when someone disappoints you, or offends you, you'll be quicker to forgive, quicker to ask for forgiveness, and slower to judge.
12. Do you have a harsh attitude towards another religion? Ask the Lord to show you how you can simultaneously be respectful to what they believe while at the same time letting them know that Jesus is the only source of salvation.