**#16 – CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

**1. How do we Discuss Hot Topics?**

We are living in very challenging but opportunity rich times for defending the truth of our faith. But we must know how to effectively and winsomely communicate that truth, especially in our immediate circle of influence. Asking the right questions can lead us into fruitful conversations that can open the doors for people to show greater interest in the gospel.

**2. Can We Trust the Bible?**

The Bible is by far the most important book ever written. Thankfully, God has ensured that the Bible has been faithfully transmitted over thousands of years, so that we can know for certain that all the books and words God intended and inspired the original authors to write are the substantially the same words we read today. It is the most trustworthy book of ancient history.

**3. Are Truth and Morality Relative?**

Moral relativists claim: “You can’t legislate morality.” The morality argument is really whose morality to legislate. Morality is not theirs or ours—it is God’s morality since He is the source of all truth. Morality must be treated in light of scripture. Scripture is the basis for all morality. God has given us His word on what is right and wrong. His word applies to all areas of life. 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness.“

**4. Doesn’t Science and the Bible Conflict?**

The Biblical worldview is the only worldview in history that can ground and make sense of all knowledge, wisdom, history, morality, spirituality, and existence itself. This includes the material world (time, space, and matter) as understood through science as well as the immaterial world (unseen realities, supernaturalism). The Bible is the framework for how we can know our origins and the nature of all created things (seen and unseen).

**5. Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?**

Without the resurrection of Christ, the whole Christian faith crumbles (1 Corinthians 15). No only is the resurrection a possibility as a supernatural event, but it has the necessary credible evidence of its historical veracity in terms of the reliability of the historical witnesses. Every attempt to falsify the evidence has been defeated such that many skeptics agree with its truth.

**6.  Wasn’t Jesus just a Man?**

Christianity arose among Jews who were fiercely monotheistic which makes the claims of early Christians concerning the deity of Christ utterly surprisingly and important. This is evidenced by the massive testimony of the NT in terms of both Jesus’ own self-identification as well as the Apostolic witness to Christ’s deity. These claims to deity together with the claims of Christ’s sin-atoning death and resurrection forms the 3 most important claims of the early church.

**7. How do we Navigate Church and State?**

God has established three specific realms: church, family, and government. When government exceeds its realm, we are to consider what our role is as Christians. We are to be informed on the issues in order to consider whether to peacefully resist, how to vote, support those who are resisting, speak out, or other actions. We have examples of resistance in Jesus’ overturning the moneychangers’ tables, John the Baptist speaking out against Herod, Peter and John refusing the Jewish leaders edict not to preach, and Paul’s responses to King Agrippa.

**8.  What’s Wrong with Black Lives Matter?**

Critical Race Theory has infected every area of our culture with its Marxist foundations that seek to create artificial oppressor and oppressed (marginalized) peoples. It uses deceptive language to hide it own ironically oppressive agenda that seeks to vilify those who do not abide by its radical ideas that are antithetical to a Biblical view of sin, humanity, grace, and merit.

**9. What’s Wrong with LGBTQ+?**

Because of the agenda of the LGBTQ+, we are witnessing unprecedented changes in our culture. Schools, businesses, government, entertainment, and the media are promoting these unbiblical views of the LGBTQ+. These unbiblical views include gender affirming treatments, gender mutilations, indoctrination, and “canceling” of anyone who opposes their attempts at restricting the culture. The Bible is clear that marriage is between a man and a woman and that sex outside of marriage is sin.

**10. What about Pro-abortion Arguments?**

Children are a gift of God. Even unborn children are God’s creation. Abortion at any stage is murder (infanticide.) Proabortion arguments are unsound and are easily defeated by the Bible. Christians have a responsibility to take action against the moves to legalize abortion. Christian need to vote, urge their representatives to act, and support of those who oppose abortion.

**11. Is Psychology Okay?**

Psychology (study of human behavior) and psychiatry (sturdy of mental disorders) are relatively new disciplines that arose out of distinctly atheist worldview that seeks to address human problem apart from religious considerations, specifically Christianity. Adopting them into Evangelicalism has undermined the Bible’s sufficiency for addressing human problems.

**12. Is Capitalism Better than Socialism?**

Capitalism is not a theory. It is a system. Socialism, capitalism, and their variations are theories. Those who argue that socialism is evident in Acts 4:32-35 and 5:1-6 show a lack of understanding of the actions of the early church. The early church gave freely without coercion. There are many myths about capitalism.

**13. Aren’t Christians Judgmental and Hypocritical?**

Professing Christians often exhibit hypocrisy and unfair judgmentalism which hurts their witness. However, the Bible expects hypocrisy, condemns it, and shows that it stems from the normal struggles of Christian living, false professions, or false accusations from opponents. The Bible also encourages making discerning judgments not unwise and hypocritical ones.

**14. Is Hell Unjust?**

Eternal hell is just retribution for a world that knows God and His standards for right and wrong, yet willing disregards them thereby committing cosmic treason. Apart from God’s grace, sinners will never desire to repent, but rather continue to store up divine wrath in continued rebellion.

**15. Aren’t All Religions the Same?**

For many years, we have thought that the threat of cults and other religions were the real enemy of Christianity. However, we are seeing the explosion of harmful secular worldviews that directly oppose Christianity. Those who hold these secular worldviews are clashing with Christians in every one of God’s ordained realms. These secular worldviews have unbiblical views of God, man, sin, and truth. Christians have God’s very words on truth, knowledge, salvation, and how to live righteously.