



Tough Questions

The Journey – Fall 2017

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Christian Life Assembly



Tough Question #14



Tough Questions

- **As Christians, what is the godly response to the NFL national anthem protests? (how do we deal with our anger, and the feelings we have for our country and our veterans)**
- **Matt 5:43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else?”**



Tough Questions

- Rom 12:16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! 17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.
- In short, as believers, our first responsibility to our "neighbor" is to love them, pray for them, and seek what is best for them. (love is a verb)

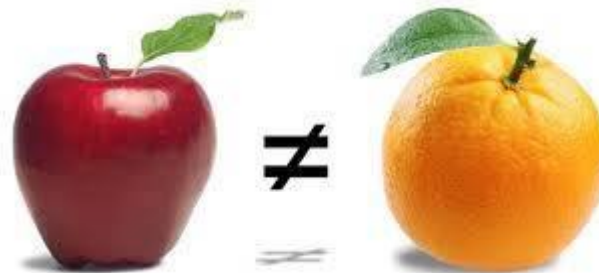


Tough Question #15



Tough Questions

- **What should our response be when the discussion about Islam includes justifying murder in the name of religion and it's said that Christians have done it for centuries (old testament)?**
- **Our response should be to say, “you are comparing apples and oranges”. 😊**





Tough Questions

- **The two most common questions that arise around this subject are: 1) what about the crusades? and 2) what about Israel in the Old testament?**
- **One of the above was orchestrated and ordained by God and the other was commission of sin by the Roman Catholic church.**
- **The crusades were, at least in part, a response to Islam taking what the Roman church thought was their territory.**



Tough Questions

- **As for what God ordained in the Old Testament – He did not command that all non-Jews be killed, just certain ones.**
- **Deut 20:16 In those towns that the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession, destroy every living thing. 17 You must completely destroy the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, just as the Lord your God has commanded you. 18 This will prevent the people of the land from teaching you to imitate their detestable customs in the worship of their gods, which would cause you to sin deeply against the Lord your God.**



Tough Questions

- **God was merciful to the all of the peoples that He had Israel wipe out – and you can see it when you think of degrees of punishment.**
- **By killing the children He spared them from a life of sin and an eternity of lostness.**
- **By killing the adults He spared them from greater “stacks” of judgment in eternity.**



Tough Questions

- **Islam murders, intimidates, tortures, and taxes its opponents because it has empty arguments.**
- **Christianity need not use force, as if that were even possible, - we simply need to speak the truth and let the Holy Spirit do His work.**
- **Christianity isn't logical or even appealing – it is true!**



Tough Questions

- **Christianity isn't logical because under whose logic would come a resurrection from the dead?**
- **Christianity isn't appealing because the natural man is drawn to the flesh and wants to play a part in his salvation.**
- **So I say again, "Christianity isn't logical or even appealing – but it is true and comes with the power of Holy Spirit."**



Tough Question #16



Tough Questions

- **Regarding Adam and Eve eating from the tree of life, in Genesis 3:22 God says: The man has now become like one of us. Are there any biblical facts on who “us” refers to? I can only assume that God was referring to Jesus and the Holy Spirit? How would Jewish believers rationalize what this means?**
- **The “us” is a veiled reference to the Trinity and can only be proved by inference.**



Tough Questions

- **Gen 3:22** Then the Lord God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!”
- So who is it that says “human beings have become like us”?
- It is the Lord God (Jehovah, Elohim) – the word “Elohim” actually points to plurality.



Tough Questions

- **The Old Testament hinted at a Trinity, but it takes the New Testament for us to fully form one of the most difficult doctrines we have.**
- **Gen 1:1 In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.**
- **Interesting, is it not, that the very first mention of God in the Bible is Elohim? (His name that points to plurality)**



Tough Questions

- **John 14:9** Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!
- **John 14:16** And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. **17** He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn’t looking for Him and doesn’t recognize Him. But you know Him, *because He lives with you now* and later will be in you.
- **John 16:7** **7** But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, *the Advocate won’t come*. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you.



Tough Questions

- **So when we come to our question “who is the ‘us’”? The answer can only be deduced by an understanding of the Trinity.**
- **John 1:3 God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. (the Him is Jesus – see verse #14)**
- **Gen 1:2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.**



Tough Questions

- **The second part of the question was, “How would Jewish believers rationalize what this means?”.**
- **I suspect this is like asking, “How would western believers rationalize what this means?”**
- **We, the church at large, are not monolithic in our doctrines and views – neither are Messianic believers.**