

the Venues Go Deep

“Maybe it Doesn’t Mean What I Think It Means” Knowing That We Don’t Know

11.11.18

When did you learn the truth about Santa Claus? How was the experience?

How did your spiritual leaders view doubting and questioning faith, Scripture, spiritual things?

 Ask away! Questions and doubts strengthen you.

 Keep those questions to yourself. Yes, I have them too but we’re not supposed to actually ask!

 Doubts and questions come from the devil. They show a lack of faith.

 Got questions? Come to me. I have all the answers.

The teaching asked this question: “Have our thoughts about God become God?”

How can our mental images of God become idols? See Exodus 20:4-6

The teaching listed three reasons to let go of our certainty about our views:

1. To think that my view is right and differing views are wrong is kind of arrogant.
2. To think that my view is right and differing views are wrong is kind of ignorant.
3. To think that my view is right and differing views are wrong is really divisive.

What do you think about those reasons to “let go” of certainty? Which reason best connects with you?

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), a Catholic priest and theologian said, “Heretics deserve not only to be separated from the Church by excommunication but also to be severed from the world by death.”

Christians killed other Christians who didn’t agree with them.

In what ways do we see that same spirit today?

The teaching offered these alternatives to certainty. Which view do you need to take?

1. Humility.

John Templeton wrote, “I grew up Presbyterian. Presbyterians thought the Methodists were wrong. Catholics thought all Protestants were wrong. The Jews thought the Christians were wrong. So, what I’m financing is humility. I want people to realize that you shouldn’t think you know it all.”

Read Mark 9:38-41

What were the disciples doing that we are guilty of doing today?

How do we apply Jesus’ reply to them to ourselves?

2. Be brave enough to ask questions.

Do we think people who have different views than ours should ask questions of their views? Should not we, then, ask questions of ours?

3. Change “believe” from a “what” word to a “who” word. Maybe it’s not so much “what” do you believe but “who” do you trust?

Read Genesis 2:17

Why would God not want mankind to know the difference between good and evil?

What happens when we turn religion into a moral code instead of a connection with God?

What is the take-away from Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 8:1-3? How does Paul rank knowledge and love?