

8 Objections to Faith No Class Tomorrow #6: July 24th

DIFFICULT
QUESTIONS about
CHRISTIANITY



EXAMINING SOME OF THE MOST
CHALLENGING QUESTIONS
CHRISTIANS ARE FACED WITH

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ... 1 John 4:1,2



³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.



⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. I John 4:5,6



Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. I John 4:7,8



⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. I John 4:9,10

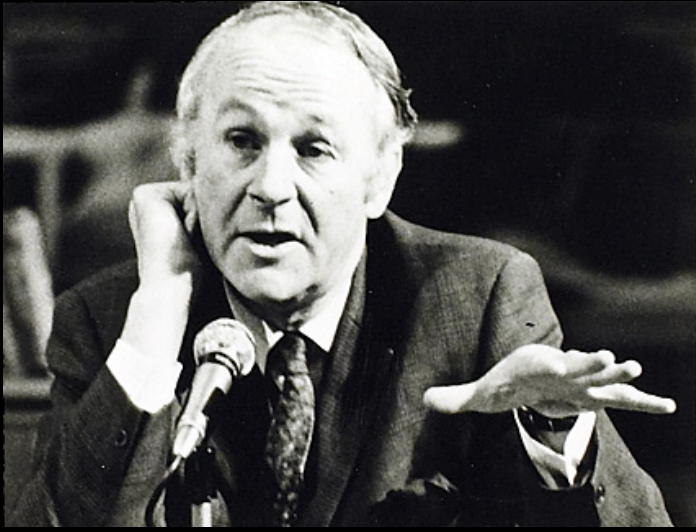


Strategy #1

Try to weaken
religion's influence.

...do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1





John Stott Anglican Cleric

"You mustn't make the mistake to think religious diversity and religious views are merely intellectual or cognitive phenomena like political views. There is actually a transcendent spiritual realm that people desire to connect to it. Every human will worship something.

Strategy #2

Confine religion to
the private realm.

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1. Agree all religions are equally valid paths to God.

Strategy #2

Confine religion to the private realm.

2. Agree that religion
doesn't belong in the
public sector.

Keep it private.

⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

I John 4:5



Strategy #2

Confine religion to the private realm.

1. Agree all religions are equally valid paths to God.



Leslie Newbigin
British Theologian/Author
Gospel in a Pluralist Society



Leslie Newbigin
British Theologian/Author

"There is an appearance of humility in the protestation that the truth is much greater than any one of us can grasp, but ... it is in fact an arrogant claim to a kind of knowledge which is superior to the knowledge which is available to fallible human beings. We have to ask ...



Leslie Newbigin
British Theologian/Author

'What is the vantage ground from which you claim to be able to relativize all the absolute claims which these different Scriptures make?' "

When you say, "No one has a superior take on spiritual reality," that *is* a take on spiritual reality, which you say is superior to everybody else's.



Tim Keller
Pastor/Author

When you say, "No one should convert everybody else to your view of religious reality, that *is* a view of religious reality that you want the listener to convert to.



Tim Keller
Pastor/Author

"There's no way for you to know all religions are equal unless you assume the kind of knowledge you say nobody has in the first place."



Tim Keller
Pastor/Author

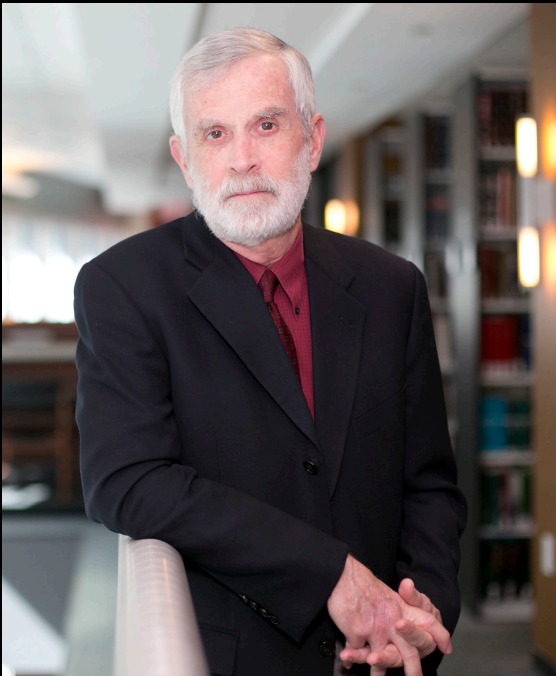
Strategy #2

Confine religion to the private realm.

2. Agree that religion
doesn't belong in the
public sector.

Keep it private.

"To say, 'Religious reasoning must be kept out of the public square because it's faith based and it's controversial,' is itself a faith-based statement which is incredibly controversial and, therefore, on its own terms ought to be thrown out."



Micheal J Perry
Author/ Law Professor
Emory University

the problem of exclusivity

Strategy #3

The unique Gospel
of Jesus Christ

² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,...

I John 4:2



Strategy #3

The unique Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. The origin of Jesus' salvation.

....Jesus Christ has come ...vs.2

Strategy #3

The unique Gospel of Jesus Christ

2. The purpose of Jesus' salvation.

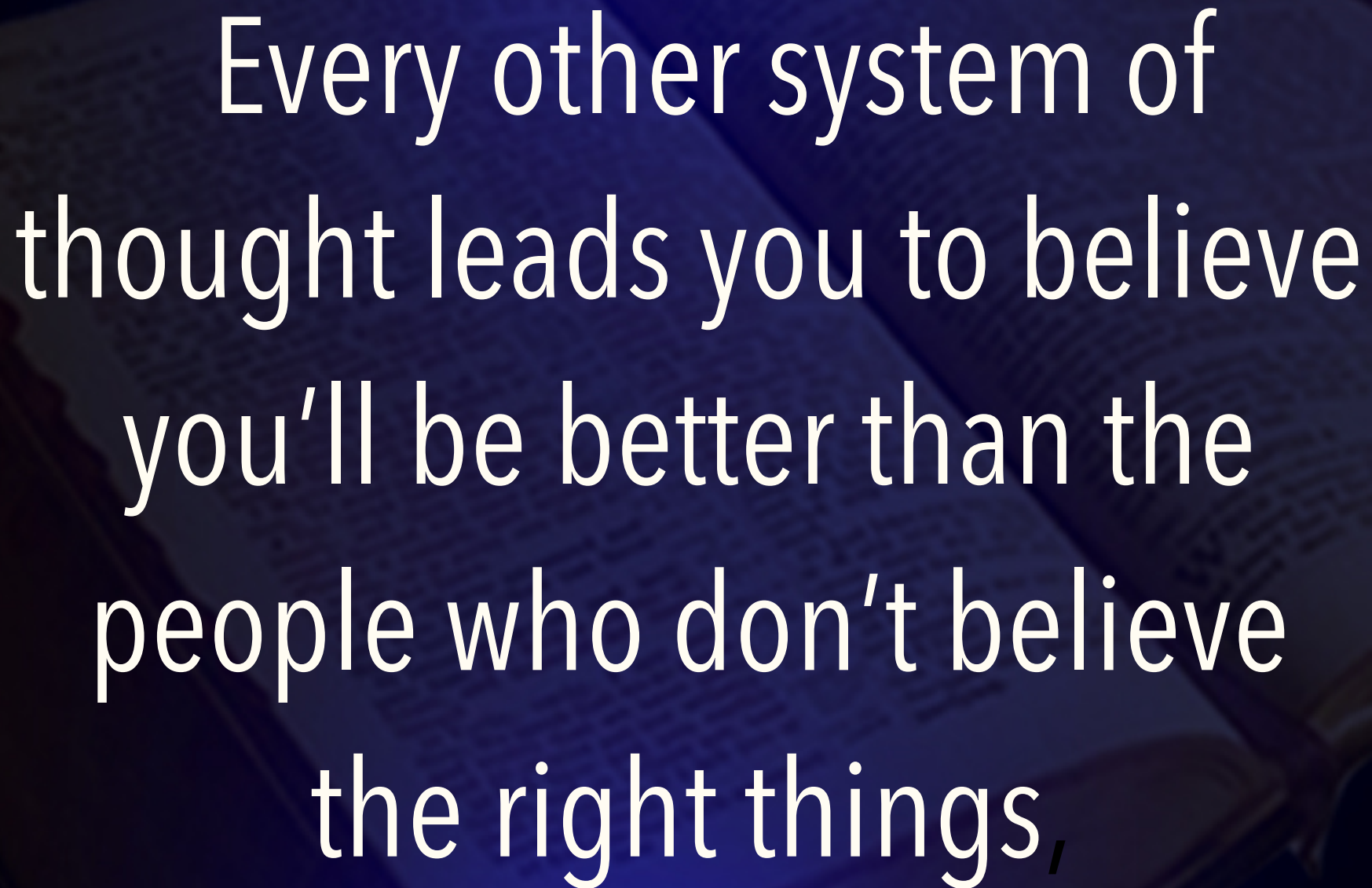
"... Jesus Christ has come *in the flesh*"

Strategy #3

The unique Gospel of Jesus Christ

3. The method of grace.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

The background of the slide features a dark blue gradient with a faint, high-angle view of an open book. The pages of the book are visible, showing some text and a binding. At the top of the slide, there is a solid red horizontal bar. The text is centered and written in a white, sans-serif font.

Every other system of
thought leads you to believe
you'll be better than the
people who don't believe
the right things,

