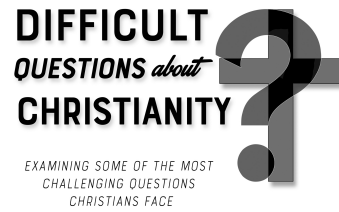


Injustice: Has't Christianity Been An Instrument For Oppression?

"Difficult Questions" Part 4 Noah Largent 8/6/17



It is a legitimate question:

1. *It is true!*

- #1 The Crusades #2 The Inquisitions #3 Salem Witch Trials
- #4 Exploitation by Missionaries #5 Anti-Semitism

2. *No one likes injustice or oppression.*

3. *Jesus says it is an issue!*

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law— justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former." – Matt. 23:23

How do we answer the question?

1. *With Humility!*

Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle response turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath."

2. *Explore the obvious historical benefits.*

- #1 Explore the foundation for morality.
- #2 Explore the service and generosity gap.
- #3 Explore the demise of slavery.
- #4 Consider why science, medicine, & technology all flourished under the Judeo-Christian worldview.

The good may outnumber the abuses, *even by far*, but wrongdoings lodge more deeply in the memory and consciousness. – Tim Keller, *Making Sense of God*. pg.195

How should it shape our lives?

1. *Remind people that Christians aren't perfect, Jesus is.*

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – John 14:6

2. *It should remind us that we are God's ambassadors.*

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. –Matt. 5:14-16

3. *Be quick to confess our sins.*

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." –*Luke 18:8*

"Both Aristotle and Plato held that most humans are by nature slavish and suitable only for slavery. Most do not have natures worthy of freedom. The Greeks used "dignity" for only the few, rather than for all human beings. By contrast, Christianity insisted that every single human is loved by the Creator, made in the Creator's image, and destined for eternal friendship and communion with him." –*Michael Novak*. CT Dec. 1999

Notes:
