

TRUTH in LOVE

Apologetics Conference

Why Does This Matter?

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Is God Good?

Is Jesus God?

Can God Be 3-in-1?

Why Does This Matter?

This Is Why We Worship

Jesus speaks with the authority
of God...

because Jesus is God.

Jesus speaks with the authority
of God...

because Jesus is God...

and Jesus is the fullest and
clearest expression of God.

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:15-20

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A “Jesus-first” approach to apologetics

- ▶ This important apologetic method simplifies how we look at difficult questions. It’s a powerful practical approach.
- ▶ Every apologetic question must be run through the prism of Jesus first, as He is the fullest and “highest definition” expression of God we have.
- ▶ We want to become “specialists” regarding Jesus.
- ▶ A few examples:
 - ▶ The authority of the Old Testament
 - ▶ Any difficult issue in the Old Testament
 - ▶ The exclusivity of the Gospel
- ▶ But what if they don’t believe in God...or miracles...or Jesus?
- ▶ Take them to Jesus anyway!

The Goodness of God

- ▶ Take them to Jesus first.
- ▶ Let them hear the voice of those who have suffered greatly and **STILL** say that God is good.
- ▶ This is not an argument for the goodness of God, but it diffuses the “sting” of the question.

Why Does The Goodness of God Matter?

- ▶ There are profound practical implications for unbelievers/skeptics.
- ▶ But there are also profound implications for Christians.
- ▶ Profound practical implications for unbelievers/skeptics.
 - ▶ It's incredibly rare for someone to embrace a God who they don't think is good.
 - ▶ They must perceive that the Gospel is both true and desirable.
- ▶ There are also profound implications for Christians.
 - ▶ How much we are willing to risk for Him.
 - ▶ How much we are willing to “open up” to Him and “get real.”
 - ▶ Our view of what God is doing in the world.
- ▶ There is a categorical difference in how we live as believers when we think that God IS good versus thinking that God is likely good or even is very likely good. “God is good all the time and all the time God is good” isn't just a cute little chant. It's a declaration about a posture toward God that changes everything.

Why Does The Goodness of God Matter?

- ▶ Bottom line: The practical dimensions of God's goodness are immense for unbelievers and believers, as we counsel with young Christians or Sunday School students, etc. As mature believers, we've got to live into God's goodness. Model it. Celebrate it. Declare it. Sing it. Reflect it. God's goodness is His glory!
- ▶ Exodus 33:18-19

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.