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How Christianity is Viewed

Christianity can be confusing if you are not familiar with the ins and outs of the Bible. Or even the basic concept of Christianity. If you are searching for a religion and don't know where to start there are certain aspects about Christianity that you should know. Christianity set guidelines for believers to follow like things they should and should not do; create their own pattern such as Sunday's being the most segregated time in the United States because cultural barriers are strong; and how Christianity should respond to multiple worldviews.

Christians use the Bible as a guideline on how they should or should not live their life, starting with the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments can be found in Exodus 20:3-17 and Deuteronomy 5:7-21. The first commandment says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Holy Bible, KJV). You should not worship anyone or anything other than our God. This commandment goes further than just worshiping another god. For example, if you attend church on Sunday's at eleven in the morning and someone offers for you to go hang out and you choose that instead of church. Then you have chosen that over God.

The second commandment says, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD

thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments" (Holy Bible, KJV). This commandment is very similar to the first commandment by not having any other god's before God. It also means to not idolize anyone or anything before God. For example, don't idolize or excessively love something such as, money, celebrities, television shows, or anything for that matter.

The third commandment says, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" (Holy Bible, KJV). This commandment basically states that you should respect God's name. When you say God you should be speaking highly, have worth. For example, when you hear someone say, "oh my God." That is disrespectful therefore you should not say it.

Commandment four says, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Holy Bible, KJV). Sunday is the chosen day for Christians to remember the sabbath day. A lot of the older generation of Christians attend church on Sunday mornings, go home and relax, take a nap, and eat before heading back to church. Food is usually prepared the day before so that there is no cooking involved on Sunday.

Commandment five says, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (Holy Bible, KJV). God wants us honor our

father and our mother by being respectful. Even if times are rough and life is tough be respectful. If your mother or father is yelling at you and cussing you, as hard as it is you should be respectful and not say anything back disrespectful. It also means that if your mother or father tells you to do something, honor them by doing it.

The sixth commandment says, "Thou shalt not kill" (Holy Bible, KJV). This commandment is pretty cut and dry, you should not kill. The literal meaning of this commandment is the premeditated killing of someone else. Often Christian's might be asked what about people who have fought in war? The Bible discusses a time for war, God ordered the Israelites to go to war. Deuteronomy 20:16-17 says, "But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee" (Holy Bible, KJV). God is a great God, a loving God, and a caring God but he does discuss war and he will forgive.

Commandment seven says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Holy Bible, KJV). No man or woman that is married should have voluntary sexual intercourse with anyone else other than their spouse. Our laws were originally made based off of religious beliefs and there is still a Florida Statute that applies to adultery. Florida Statute 798.01 says, whoever lives in the state of adultery should be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree and punished (FL Senate, 2015). Commandment eight says, "Thou shalt not steal" (Holy Bible, KJV). This commandment is also very cut and dry, you should not steal. At any point when you are taking something, if it does not belong to you then you should not take it.

Commandment nine says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" (Holy Bible, KJV). Defamation of character, gossip, or even lying, there are so many ways to explain this commandment. Your neighbor does not directly mean the house that lives next door to you. Your neighbor is another person, someone you encounter. Commandment ten says, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's (Holy Bible, KJV). This commandment means that you should not dwell over something you don't have. You should not desire to have it but to be thankful for what you do have and if the opportunity should arrive allowing you to obtain something you want then you choose when you are able. You should not continuously think about something you don't have at that moment.

The Ten Commandments guide a person; mold a person into how they should be, and what they should live by. Other than the Ten Commandments Christians should follow Bible in general. A Christian's job is to live for the Lord, knowing they will not be perfect, but speaking for God; telling others about God so that they have the same opportunity to have everlasting life with Christ, converting others to Christianity. Jeremiah 1:7-9 says, "But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth" (Holy Bible, KJV). Everyone is different in their own unique way but if Christians follow the guidelines of the Bible the way people treat one another would be different. People are still going to make mistakes and sin but the point is to acknowledge our sin, learn from our mistakes, and make a conscious effort to not do it again. As a human it is natural to want to do things such as gossip but these guidelines are in place for

Christians to stay away from negative actions. A Christian should put their full faith into God and he will guide them on the right path. Christians will worship God for what he does, has done, and will do for them. Worldly things are often so easy to do than the correct thing but you have to rely on God. The Bible says in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Holy Bible, KJV). The Ten Commandments are very important but the Bible itself is full of guidelines for Christians. If we as Christians utilize these guidelines we could eliminate problems in the world. As difficult as it may be, and it is difficult because we are all sinners, we must remember commandment four. Commandment four will help Christians to stay on a righteous path. Gathering on Sundays and worshiping the Lord helps keep Christians on a righteous path but it also creates their own pattern such as Sunday's being the most segregated time in the United States because cultural barriers are strong.

Cultural barriers are on strong on Sunday's creating the most segregated day in the United States. When I speak of cultural barriers I refer to race and religion. Churches are segregated by both race and religion. Can you think of one place where everyone of all races, religions, and ethnicity met at the same time to worship God? On March 31st, 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said, "We must face the sad fact that at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning when we stand to sing 'In Christ there is no East or West,' we stand in the most segregated hour of America" (Augsburg, 2016).

Changes over years have been made to eliminate segregation of race so why are we still allowing that to separate our churches? Why are we allowing segregation to come between the people when we are all there for the same reason, to worship God. Seeing the media portray racial segregation I can understand because that is what they do but our churches? Let's remind

ourselves that when we say the church we are not talking about the building we are talking about the people that attend the church. When you travel on Sunday's to a building to worship God you are simply going into the building and when you leave you are just leaving a building. YOU are the church. Think about the people that attend your church if you go to one or have ever been to one. If you attend a black church, how many white people or Hispanic people do you see in there on a Sunday? If you attend a white church, how many black people or Hispanic people attend on Sunday? This segregation has been going on in churches for so long that the people are comfortable with it (Augsburg, 2016). For me as a Christian the segregation of race in the church is not about disliking one another it's about no body standing up enough to say hey let's combine our congregation. It has been so focused on outside of church we need to not forget the church and combined our congregation. The church may fear the negative comments the public has to say if this topic was to come up. One thing the world could do to help fix this segregation in the congregation is prevail the negative socialization, listen to one another, trust one another, and work together (Augsburg, 2016).

Another type of segregation within churches that is known is the segregation of beliefs. Different religions worship on different days. There are so many different types of religions in the world Christianity, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, and more. Each religion might not worship on the same day and for those that do worship on Sunday's they are separated from other religions at their place of worship. For example, in the small town of Starke, in Bradford County Florida in about two blocks there are several churches that include Methodist, Evangelist, Pentecostal, Baptist, and more. On Sunday's parking is unreal and traveling down those streets are difficult. So many people gather on Sunday to worship God yet the hard truth is we are all separated into different buildings. This is a cultural segregation of religions on Sunday, the most segregated day

in the United States. Even with these barriers Christians should respond to multiple worldviews.

Worldviews of religion differ and I understand that more now than I ever have. A Christian learns to tell others about Christ and to try and convert someone to Christianity. This is something we discussed in the guidelines of Christianity. We live in a very diverse world so when we communicate with others as Christians we need to be considerate of others. They may already have a religious belief. We need to respect others' beliefs. You can tell someone about the word of God while being respectful at the same time.

When I think about Christianity I think about the morals that I have learned such as how you dress. There are many different worldviews on clothing and how someone should dress. Most religions believe in being very modest but there are different levels of modesty with each religion. When Christians interact with others who might not be aware of what the Bible says about modesty they should be respectful. There is a difference between teaching someone what the Bible says and judging someone. For example, since I was discussing modesty I will use that as the example, if a Christian says to a girl revealing too much skin, you need to put clothes on you are going to go to hell for dressing like that. That is not a very Christian approach to win someone's heart. That person's worldview of religion may not be one at all or maybe they have never been taught details of Christianity. A better approach of a Christian responding would be to teach them the word of God says by showing them verses like, 1 Timothy 2:9, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array" (Holy Bible, KJV). When people arrive into a church to hear the word of God Christians should accept them as they are. As they learn the word of God, God will deal with their heart, and they will begin to change. It is not a Christian's job to change someone; it is their job to properly respond to multiple worldviews and witness

respectfully.

Christianity is not cut and dry or black and white. Reading the Bible is overwhelming, confusing, and sometimes you just don't know where to start. Sometimes there is a fear of commitment, Palsms 86:11, "Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name" (Holy Bible, KJV). Fear of being changed, Ezekiel 36:24-27, "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them" (Holy Bible, KJV). Fear of lacking knowledge, Proverbs 16:3, "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established" (Holy Bible, KJV). These verses help Christians when things are not cut and dry or black and white. Christianity is not an easy life to live but it is a good life to live. If you choose Christianity you can use the Holy Bible as your guidelines to lead you on a righteous path. With cultural barriers being so strong and the most segregated day in the United States being Sunday, Christians set that pattern and we can change that. It does not have to be the most segregated day. Christians no matter the race can join together to worship God, we have the same God. Our world will always be diverse and that is okay. We as Christians might not always agree with worldly views but we can respect others and respond to those views like Christians should. Minimize the hate in the world and respond to others with pride and respect. If for some reason you have an issue with how to respond to worldviews look to your Bible for guidance.

Citations:

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