Your Greatest Doubts and Fears
How to Keep the Faith When Facing Life's Toughest Questions

#7: Isn't Christianity Just the Same as All Other Religions? What Makes it Different?

Intro: Richard Dawkins, Biologist and Self-proclaimed atheist, author of The God Delusion proposes the following claim:

> "We are all atheists about most of the gods that humanity has ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further."

I want to propose that the reason why **all these different things that** have been mentioned **are truly distinct is because Christianity flows from a unique God.** (Repeat)

I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God
Is 45:5a ESV

I. Self-Sufficiency
    1. The opening line in Scripture faces us with the reality of a self-sufficient God
        1. This attribute is also called *aseity,* which comes from the Latin *a se* meaning *from himself*.
        2. A self-sufficient God stands in opposition to any worldview, religion, or system of belief that states that God needs his creation in any way, shape, or form.

II. Sovereignty
        1. For a true God to be truly God, he must be *sovereign*. (In control.)
        2. By Christianity's claim, any religion in which God is not sovereign, cannot be "just the same" as Christianity. Christianity requires a sovereign God.

III. Personal
    1. God has revealed himself as a personal God.
        1. Revelation itself is a proof of his personality.
            - Because God is a *relational being,* a characteristic of personhood, *communication is possible.*
        2. Furthermore, objective moral values are possible.
            - This is, for us to be able to say "I ought to do this" there must be *someone* that is *requiring me* to do such and such.
        3. I believe one of the best ways to see the personal-relational aspect of God's nature is by way of Covenant.

IV. Triune
    1. God has revealed himself as a Trinity.
    2. Why? Why <u>must</u> God be a trinitarian being?
    3. Here's a brief argument.

1. Christianity presents a God that is one in essence, and yet three in persons. He is as the same time, ultimately one and many.
    - This is consistent with both a personal God, and a self-sufficient God.
4. This trinitarian God dovetails perfectly with the Christian understanding not just of who God is, but also of how salvation works.

V. What about no-God-at all?
    1. Transcendental Argument for God (Van Til–Frame)
        1. Here's the naturalistic-materialistic atheistic logic:
            - A. Only that which can be <u>empirically proved</u> is to be accepted as true.
            - B. The assertion *"God exists"* cannot be empirically proved.
            - C: Hence, the assertion *"God exists"* cannot be accepted as true.

            The problem is that the first proposition cannot be empirically proved. The argument is self-defeating.

    2. The other option is presupposing a Biblical God. A Self-Sufficient, Sovereign, Personal, Triune God.

Concluding Thoughts

So, what have we learned today:

1. Biblical Christianity presupposes a unique God, self-sufficient, sovereign, personal and Triune, from which all other unique features of Christianity flow.
2. All other religions fall short from presenting a God that is consistent with the superior God of the Bible, and are therefore to be rendered false.
3. Atheism lacks the logical basis to present an argument that upholds the naturalistic-materialistic worldview that it presents.
4. Biblical Christianity, because of its True Unique God, is the True Unique Religion.

Class Schedule:
Mar 20: What if the Gospels are just made-up stories? Is it possible everything we believe is a lie?
Mar 27: Lots of Christians are "deconstructing" their faith? Does that mean Christianity isn't true?
April 3: What do I do if Christianity Just isn't working for me?
April 10: What if I am Not a Christian? How Can I Know for Sure?