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

#2: If Christianity is True, Then Why Do So Many People Reject It?

Intro: Do you ever think "It would be so great for the church if [insert famous person] became a Christian"?

I. People Don't Form Their Beliefs in a Linear, Scientific Way

A. Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
- Scientific evidence is interpreted through "paradigms"
- The paradigms don't come from the evidence but shape the evidence

B. The Importance of Worldviews
- Worldviews involve our most foundational commitments: origins of the world, meaning of life, how we know right from wrong, existence of God, what happens when we die, etc.
- Worldviews are not something you look at, but something you look *through*

C. The big point: people only accept beliefs that are consistent with their earlier and more foundational beliefs
- Example: C.S. Lewis, *The Magician's Nephew*
- Example: "We're in the wrong church!"

II. Without the Spirit, Humans Are Hardwired to Reject Christianity

A. The Situation in Corinth: None of the Philosophers Were Accepting Jesus

B. So, Paul reminds the Corinthains:

- 1 Cor 2:14: "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them"

- 1 Cor 1:18: [18] For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God… [20] Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (1 Cor 1:18-20)

- If humans were to create a religion it would not look like Christianity. What would it look like?

III. Why Does God Do It This Way?

A. So God Gets the Glory

- [26] For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [29] so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

B. Does This Mean That Christianity is Actually Foolish?

- No, it just appears fools in the eyes of the world

- The Christian worldview shows that unbelief is what is really foolish
  **It's amazing what a person has to believe in order not to believe!

C. Does This Mean God Only Saves Unintelligent People?

- No! Some of the Greatest Minds in History Have Been Christians

- So Why Aren't There More Evangelical Scholars in Major Universities?

Class Schedule:

Jan 9: Doubting Christian: What Role do Doubts and Fear Play in the Christian Life?
Jan 16: If Christianity is True then Why do so Many Intelligent People reject it?
Jan 23: Does saying Jesus is the Only Way Make us Arrogant or Intolerant?
Jan 30: Some Non-Christian Are Kind, Wonderful and Happy—Does that Mean Christianity Doesn't Work?
Feb 6: Does the existence of evil and suffering in the world mean that God doesn't exist?
Feb 13: Some parts of the Bible seem morally troubling—are we sure it's a "good" book?
Feb 20: How Do I Deal with Depression and Anxiety About the Future?
Feb 27: Missions Week, Combined Sunday School
Mar 6: If Christianity is true, then how we do explain the bad behavior of Christians?
Mar 13: Isn't Christianity just the same as all the other religions? What makes it different?
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?