

Lies We Believe: “We’re All God’s Children”

Various Texts

The Dangers of Bad Theology

- We are assailed daily by claims of truth that, on face value, seem legitimate, but when really analyzed are biblically false
 - Scripture is filled with warnings against false teaching
- False teaching leads us to misunderstand who God is
 - And by extension who we are in relation to Him
- We are going to spend several weeks looking at common claims of truth that Christians sometimes believe, but are biblically false and dangerous

The Claim: “We are all God’s Children”

- At the surface, this claim seems true (Acts 17:28)
 - Paul speaking to philosophers in Athens
 - Quoting Greek poets
- However, at the heart of this claim is that a relationship with God is innate to the human experience
- This is dangerous because it can lead us to believe that we, and everyone else, are okay with God
 - Related false teachings: Humans are basically good; All roads lead to God

Context is Key

- Whenever we look at any claim of truth, we must measure it against what God has revealed in Scripture
 - And in order to properly understand what Scripture means, we have to look at the context of any given passage

Paul’s Claim (Acts 17:22-31)

- Paul uses the Greek philosophers’ own logic to point of some hard truths
 - Humanity finds its source in God
 - “Offspring” = *genos* = creations
 - God is not found in that which we make
 - Calling out idolatry

- But, God does desire to be known by us
 - A relationship
 - Which is available through Jesus
 - When we repent and trust Him

The Truth of Scripture (John 1:9-13)

- God has come to man to make Himself known
 - This happened through the incarnation of Jesus
- Yet, often we reject Jesus
- But when we believe in Jesus and receive Him into our lives
 - We become God's children
 - *Tekna* = A term of relationship, not simply creation
 - And have the power and authority to live as such
 - As a result of the new birth we have in the Spirit of Jesus (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6)

What We Believe Matters

- If all humans are innately in a relationship with God
- And if that relationship is essential for us to be who we are supposed to be
- And if that relationship is only available through Jesus...
 - Then everyone, including us, needs JESUS!
- This truth should compel us to know Him
- And to share Him with everyone!

So What?

- Are we God's children because we have a relationship with Him through Jesus?
 - What about our families, our friends, our neighbors?
 - If not, what are we doing about that?

Meditation Verse: Acts 17:30-31