

Cross of Christ Forum

How We See God

October 2018

What are the driving forces of all religions?

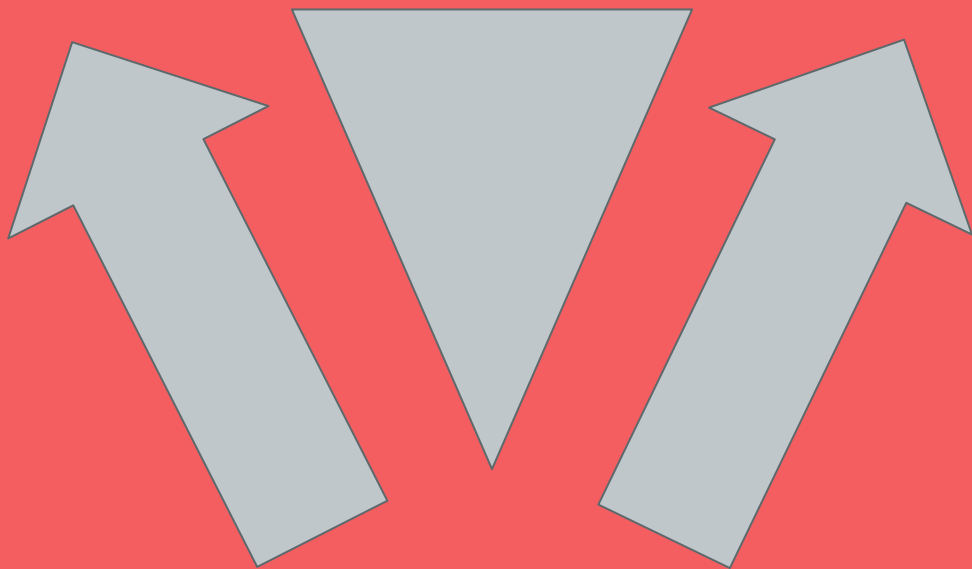
1. Fear
2. Control

You may have heard the
argument

that all religions lead to the same place.

They do not.

All religions start at the same place, but
take very different paths from there.



chaos/injustice/evil/death

Religions try to eliminate our fears by exerting control over God.

Life Under God

- A. Bargain to appease God to do my part to control the world and my life.
- B. Combination of rituals and morality
- C. Creature seeks to control the Creator
- D. God helps those who help themselves
- E. God blesses my obedience

Life Under God leads to:

- A. Disappointment with God
- B. Fear of God
- C. Because, ultimately, we can't control God or the world.

Life Over God

- A. Discover the principles of God
- B. By figuring out how God works we can control Him and our world
 - a. God always
 - b. God never
 - c. God only
- C. Effectiveness is a big word
- D. Six steps to.....

Life Over God leads to:

- A. God's principles rather than God Himself
- B. Fear that we will miss a principle or get one wrong
- C. Or worse, believing we did all that we could and it still wasn't effective!
- D. Disappointment with a God who didn't live up to His principles.

Life From God

- A. God exists to supply our needs
- B. The gifts not the Giver
- C. God has no value in Himself but only in what He does and gives
- D. Comfort and safety become the prime goals

Life From God leads to:

- A. A crisis of faith when suffering comes
- B. Under-developed faith
- C. Fear that we might lose our comfort and safety
- D. We find ourselves more anxious because we have so many gifts to lose

Life for God

- A. God's mission and work replace God Himself
- B. Preys on our fears of insignificance
- C. Our life's worth is defined by our ability to accomplish a grand objective for God
- D. God is always calling me to greater and greater impact.
- E. Bigger, better, faster, stronger, higher!

Life for God leads to:

- A. Pride or guilt
- B. Discontented restlessness
- C. Burnout
- D. Disappointment with God when things don't go the way we want

Life With God

A. How it was meant to be

B. Adam and Eve

a. No fear

b. No need to control

c. God did give them at least one rule

i. "Do not eat..."

Life With God

- d. God did give them gifts
 - i. Each other
 - ii. The garden
- e. God did give them tasks to do
 - i. Be fruitful
 - ii. Subdue the earth
- f. God walked **with** them in the cool of the evening

Life With God

C. All of the things we seek were there in the lives of Adam and Eve, but God was the focus.

Life with Love

- A. The way God feels about us defines how we see God
1 John 3:1
- B. There is no need to control God because He is in control
Luke 8:22-25
- C. God's control is exercised in love for us
Romans 8:31-32
- D. God's love for me is not contingent on my performance
John 20:19-20
- E. The Father is good
Luke 12:32

Life with Faith

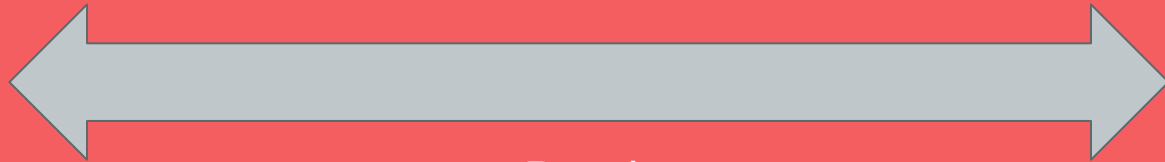
A. Focused on the One who is **with** us

Hebrews 12:2

B. Based in the fact of the cross

John 10:28

Eternal Life



Death
Present reality

C. Psalm 23

Life with Hope

- A. Based not in our circumstances or abilities but on our victory in Christ
Romans 8:37-39
- B. It is not dependent on my buoyancy; how quickly I bounce back or on my rosy outlook
Romans 8:26-27
- C. Frees us to be honest about our struggles and fears
Hebrews 4:14-16
- D. Based on the fact that the cross is real and it is for me
Luke 24:5-8
- E. Hope in Jesus pulls us forward and upward out of the chaos into communion **with** God
Matthew 14:27-33

“And now these three remain:
faith, hope and love. But the
greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

Life with God

- A. Has rituals and morality
- B. Has principles and practices
- C. Has gifts and comfort and safety
- D. Has mission and purpose

None of these becomes the ultimate thing of our lives or our goal.

God, Himself, is the ultimate thing and our goal.

“First and foremost we are called to Someone (God), not to something (parenthood, ministry, politics, morality) or to somewhere (foreign missions, safe spaces)”

Os Guinness

The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life Os Guinness 1998