



jesus in dialogue with beautiful minds

Part 1: The Scientists

Part 2: *The Psychologists*

Part 3: *The Sociologists*

Part 4: *The Philosophers*

INTRODUCTION – Admitting The Eternity Impulse

Robert Buckman:

The desire for immortality is an unfathomably deep urge – so deep and powerful and primal that it can best be considered as a basic component of the human psyche.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Brain Science & The God Impulse

Wilder Penfield, Michael Persinger, Andrew Newberg...

Jesus, Intuition, & The Axiom of Equals

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Ecclesiastes 3:11; Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 19:1-4;
Romans 1:18-21; 1 John 2:27

John 1:9; 12:32; 16:8

Psalm 14:1; 53:1

Jean-Jacques Rousseau:

If the life and death of Socrates were those of a sage, the life and death of Jesus were those of a God.

The Response of Faith VS. Religion

FAITH = trust in the Person of God

Hebrews 11:6

RELIGION = is the _____ of faith. It is the replacement of relationship with hollow structures, methods, and techniques.

Paul Davies, Professor of Natural Philosophy, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia:
Religions represent an attempt to harness innate spirituality for organizational purposes – not always good.

CONCLUSION – Experimenting In The Laboratory

Three Things To Try...

Hebrews 11:1

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Discuss the meaning and significance of this quote by French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal: *For those who believe no proof is necessary; for those who do not no proof is possible.*
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Although Jesus never uses the word "religion" to describe his way of living, his brother James does in one passage. Read **James 1:26-27**. Thinking of what the religions of his day consisted of, how is James redefining this word in non-religious terms?
4. Is it accurate to call Jesus' message and mission "irreligious"? Examine and discuss the ways Jesus' actions and teachings challenge the popular religious notions of his day (and ours!) in each of the following passages... a) TERRITORY – **Luke 17:21-22; John 18:36**; b) TRIBALISM – **Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 12:1-12; John 1:11-13**; c) TRADITION – **Mark 7:1-13**; (& **Matthew 23**); d) TORAH – **Matthew 5:17; 19:8; Mark 7:19; John 1:1 & 14**; e) TEMPLE – **Matthew 9:1-8; John 2:21**. If Jesus walked among us today, what do you think he would challenge most strongly about the Christian religion?

SO WHAT?...

5. Are there ways in your own life that you can tend toward becoming more religious than relational with God? Are there areas of your spiritual life that you would like to become more authentically engaged with God? Pray for each other regarding this.

HOMEWORK...

6. Read **Romans 1** and take note of what you learn about God and how God is known.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, November 7 / 14, 2004



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