

TABOO 2

BREAKING THE SILENCE ON MORE TOUGH TOPICS

Part 8: Universalism | November 4-5, 2017
Lem Usita, Next Gen Pastor

Pieve (*Italian*) = rural church

The essence of universalism: We're all kind of right

What does the Bible say?

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
– Solomon, in Proverbs 14:12

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – Jesus, in John 14:6

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." – Paul, in Acts 4:12

A Definition

Universalism is based on the belief that salvation can be received without necessarily hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The thinking is that God grants salvation to those that are sincere in their beliefs (no matter what those beliefs are) and sincere in their goodness. Universalism teaches that all religions and cultures worship the same God in their own way, and that Yahweh is the God of all religions.

Churches a thousand years ago were built this way: A sanctuary and a cloister

Sanctuary = Disciplines of the mind

Cloister = Disciplines of the heart

When the sanctuary gets separated from the cloister, we've separated the mind from the heart.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. – Ephesians 6:12

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

(Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27)

The Takeaway:

What we've lost is the heart of Jesus.

How do we get it back?

We ask for it.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
who gives generously to all without reproach,
and it will be given him. – James 1:5*

Small Group Questions

- 1) How would you define universalism? Do you have any friends or family members that claim universalism? What do they think about Christianity?
- 2) What are your feelings toward universalism? Can you think of any other religions or philosophical perspectives that cause fear, fighting, or needing to defend their position? Why do we react and feel like we need to defend?
- 3) Have you ever seen a post on social media and replied with your arguments against that idea? Do you remember the feelings that caused you to post?
- 4) How do you check those feelings?
- 5) Have you spent any time developing the ability to feel? To feel Love? To feel Kindness? To have Empathy? What would it take to develop those kinds of feelings?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?