



Walking with God through Pain and Suffering Week 3; Chs 5-6

RECAP

- 1- Read the book each week!
- 2- The book serves as the guideline for all convos
- 3- There are other people/voices in the room- listen to them!
 - 4- Let the book read you
- 5- Submit it all to Scripture and the Spirit in each of us
- 6- What happens in WWGTPS stays in WWGTPS

Week 2

Keller settles on the great Western cultural engine of Secularism as he discusses many of our current struggles in dealing with pain and suffering.

What is Secularism?

A belief system that attempts to make sense of the self and the world with a baseline worldview that belief in God is not necessary and may, in fact, be harmful in seeking meaning and purpose in life.

Week 2

“It is the emergence of “the secular” in this sense that makes possible the emergence of an “exclusive humanism” — a radically new option in the marketplace of beliefs, a vision of life in which anything beyond the immanent is eclipsed.

“For the first time in history a purely self-sufficient humanism came to be a widely available option. I mean by this a humanism accepting no final goals beyond human flourishing, nor any allegiance to anything else beyond this flourishing. Of no previous society was this true.” *-Charles Taylor*

Week 2

Shares roots with atheism- the problem of suffering and evil in a religious system can only be overcome by rejecting religion

Case Study:

- 1- suffering is experienced/observed
- 2- suffering and pain doesn't seem to fit with the picture of God as all-powerful, all-good, all-loving, etc
- 3- God must not exist
- 4- without God, people can do good "for goodness' sake" and there is no purpose to evil and suffering; it simply is, or at the very least is a useful part of the evolutionary process

Week 2

In 1882, at the graveside of a friend's child, Ingersoll declared:

“They who stand with breaking hearts around this little grave, need have no fear. The larger and the nobler faith in all that is, and is to be, tells us that death, even at its worst, is only perfect rest ... The dead do not suffer.”

-Robert Green Ingersoll, “The Blessings of Atheism”, Jacoby; NYT 2013

Week 2

In your small groups, discuss:

Questions 1, 3, 6, 9

Q 4- Explain “expressive individualism” and how it is incapable of helping people who suffer

Week 2

Expressive Individualism:

“...each one of us has his/her own way of realizing our humanity, and that it is important to find and live out one’s own, as against surrendering to conformity with a model imposed on us from outside, by society, or the previous generation, or religious or political authority.” -Charles Taylor

Week 1

- 1- The highest good is individual freedom, happiness and self expression.
- 2- Religions or beliefs that restrict these things must be deconstructed or destroyed.
- 3- The world will get better as individual freedom grows.
- 4- The primary ethic is tolerance of everyone's self-definition of self and happiness.
- 5- Humans are inherently good.
- 6- Large scale institutions are suspicious and potentially dangerous.
- 7- External authority is rejected and personal authenticity is lauded.

Mark Sayers; Disappearing Church

Week 2

What every culture's narrative must provide about human life :

1- hope

2- cohesion

Expressive individualism actively argues against both of these needs

Week 2

pp. 106-107

What is Keller's point about our sense of justice/
right-wrong being evidence of God's existence?

Week 2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Week 2

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. *Romans 5:1-5*

Week 2

Q and A??

Homework week 3/February 23:

Chapters 5-6; Study Guide