Use the message notes and <u>Discussion Guide to dive deeper into this message from Pastor Eric Gilbert.</u> This message premieres 10/29/2023 on <u>3trees.Online.Church</u> and the <u>3trees.Church Facebook and YouTube.</u>

You can download the DISCUSSION GUIDE here: "Some Say"

Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...

Psalm 128:1 (NKJV) Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.

Matthew 16:13–16 (NKJV) When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I am?" <sup>14</sup> So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

# 1. Christianity is not perfect.

1 John 1:8 (NKJV) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

# 2. Christianity has been used to justify violence and oppression for centuries.

Acts 20:27–31 (NKJV) For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

# 3. Christianity is not the only way to be spiritual.

**Ephesians 6:12–20 (NKJV)** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, **against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

# 4. Christianity is not the only way to God.

**John 14:6 (NKJV)** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

#### 5. Christianity is not the only way to go to heaven.

**Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of **My Father in heaven**. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> And **then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice** [sinfulness]!'

John 14:6 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

#### 6. Christianity is not the only way to avoid hell.

John 14:6 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Matthew 25:30–43 (NKJV) And [Jesus will] cast the [sinful] servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>31</sup> "[Because] When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.... <sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

# 7. Christianity is not the only way to connect with God.

John 14:6 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**John 9:31 (NKJV)** Now we know that **God does not hear sinner**s; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:9 (NKJV) ....For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

Romans 3:18 (NKJV) There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Romans 6:23a (NKJV) For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23b (NKJV) But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:10 (NKJV) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 8:1–2 (NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:38–39 (NKJV) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### 8. Christianity is not the only way to find meaning and purpose in life.

Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV) There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...

Psalm 128:1 (NKJV) Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.

REFERENCE – Some say: These are just a few of the harsh truths about Christianity that no one is ready to hear yet. It is important to talk about these things, even if they are difficult to hear. Christianity is a complex and multifaceted religion, and it is important to be honest about its flaws as well as its strengths.1

<sup>1</sup> https://www.floppycats.com/12-harsh-truths-about-christianity-that-no-one-is-ready-to-hear-yet.html