

Small Group Discussion Questions

Is Religion Dangerous?

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. Discuss last week's weekly challenge, "Find one part of the Bible with which you disagree". Ask yourself, 'If this is the Word of God to me, what needs to happen?'"
3. What are some common historical "stains" on Christianity that you have heard mentioned by other people?
4. What are some experiences you've had, or observances you have made, had that might cause you to think religion is dangerous? How have you made sense of those experiences?
5. Pastor Keith said that history has taught that the human capacity for evil and oppression cannot be pinned on religion. How has your understanding changed in view of that teaching?
6. If any worldview can be high jacked to support one's agenda, can you think of an example?
7. Why might a non-religious worldview be dangerous?
8. The example of the abolition of slavery was used to show how true Christianity can suppress sinful tendencies. How do you understand this example? Can you think of other examples?
9. What are some present day reasons people believe religion to be dangerous? How would one deal with these ideas?
10. How can Jesus help you to be more loving?
11. Choose 2 people to debate "Is Religion Dangerous?" (5 min). Provide group feedback on the discussion.

This Week's Challenge: Have a considerate conversation with someone you trust about what they think is the biggest "stain" on their particular worldview and how they deal with that.



Sheridan Park Family Church



Is Religion Dangerous?

Sunday November 4, 2018

9:00-10:00am Prayer in the **Downstairs** Fireside Room

10:30am Service

Speaker: Pastor Keith Piquette

This month's elder is Scott Cushing.

In case of need or an emergency he can be reached at 416-209-9393.

Welcome!

We are so glad you are joining us this morning. We would love to greet you personally at our Welcome Table. Please pick up an information sheet about our various ministries or visit our website: www.spfamilychurch.ca.

THE FAMILY ROOM is available for parents of children who need a temporary space away during the service yet close enough to easily slip back in. The room is located on the drum-side overflow at the back of the upper auditorium. Please feel free to check it out.



Divine Doubts

Is Religion Dangerous?

- There is a popular sentiment in Canada today that religion is dangerous because it's been the cause of so much war and oppression.
- The church has a stained past when it comes to wars and oppression, but so do all worldviews.
 - Communist China & Russia, Nazi Germany, etc.
- Clearly religion is not to blame for the division, oppression, and hatred that is in this world. There is something in us as humans that has a great capacity for evil (Rom 7:21-24).
- Christianity at its core is the very least dangerous of all the worldviews out there.
 - A Secular "survival of the fittest" worldview is much more dangerous and oppressive.
- Since all humans have a propensity towards evil, a religious worldview helps to suppress that sin-nature.
 - Look at the example of the abolition of slavery by Christians.
 - Although slavery took place in Christian nations, as in all nations, it was the Christians that first came to the conclusion that it was wrong and should be stopped.
- True Christian religion teaches us to sacrifice ourselves for the benefit of those who are less fortunate not to use our power to exploit them.
 - Jesus showed us the example in the feeding of 5000 (John 6:1-15)

