

Being Skeptical Of The Skeptics

The motto of our day seems to be, “Question everything!” It has finally gotten to the point that nothing, and no One, is sacred—literally. Not content with questioning authority generally, and many religious beliefs specifically, some are now targeting the deity of Christ himself as doubtful. A recent mainstream news program asks, “What if everything you think you know about Jesus was wrong?... What if Jesus did not die?”

Now, don’t get me wrong. I am not sending forth a call for us to censor this program or for a boycott of the book that it explores. What is most important is that we understand that an atmosphere has been set up where beliefs are grouped together, questioned, and then rejected for lack of scientific evidence. One problem that particularly annoys me is that we are told that freedom of speech is important, then the speech of believers is denigrated and dismissed. Another problem is that critics are attacking the traditions of the Catholic church as being equivalent to the teachings of Christ, as if they go together. The Catholic church has indeed promoted many traditions that veil the truth of the Bible. However, one can accept the deity of Christ and believe and obey him without becoming a Catholic.

Don’t allow the loud critics to stifle your faith. If there is legitimacy to some of their questions, explore them. Unproven and unbiblical traditions can be demonstrated to be unproven and unbiblical. However, there are many credible, documented sources that contain sufficient evidence for belief in Christ as the son of God and for the Bible as the word of God. (By the way, if you can’t trust the Gospel accounts for evidence of Jesus’ death and resurrection, why even believe that he lived in the first place?) It can also be demonstrated that these recent criticisms are not new. In fact, they are the old arguments “dressed up in new robes.”

It might also help to think about the reverse of the critics’ questions: What if Jesus *did* live?—What if Jesus *did* die and rise from the dead?—What if there really *is* a place called heaven?—What if there really *is* a place called hell?—What if the things you believe *are* true? The Bible says (and I believe): “...if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain...for we walk by faith, not by sight...It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (1 Corinthians 15:14, 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 10:30).

“*Examine everything carefully, hold fast to that which is good*” (1 Thessalonians 5:21, NASBU).
—Lance Cordle