

This week, Pastor Andy concluded the series “Christianity and World Religions” with his sermon on Christianity.

Pastor Andy points out that the core message of Christianity is that God loves the world, His creation, and because of His love, He sent Jesus Christ to handle the issue of sin. God’s essential nature is one of “love.” His love is expressed in and through His creations. The other world religions do not see this God of love. They do not see Him as creator. Some do not acknowledge Him at all. These religions have plenty of structure, but they do not understand that our creator wants relationship and not religious law.

Pastor Andy reminds us that humanity was created by God in His own image, but unlike Him, humanity is prone to sin. Even though you can do good things, sometimes great things, there is still something wrong, something missing. That shortfall is sin. As a person, there is no remedy. There is no way to balance the bad with good deeds. God alone provides the solution to the problem of sin, “grace.”

God sent grace for forgiveness in the form of His son Jesus Christ, God in the flesh. God’s word says that sin always results in death. Through His innocent death, voluntarily on the cross, Jesus was able to take the punishment God righteously reserves for your sin. God deals with the human condition through Jesus. Salvation cannot be earned, as in the other religions. You cannot attain it by eliminating your desire for material things, by outdoing bad karma, or by scrupulously following a series of rules. You can receive it only as a gift from God by faith. Grace makes us “right” with God based on the life of Christ alone.

Pastor Andy finishes his message on the Christian faith by using personal illustrations. Like you, he is an authority on his own life and his own experiences. Pastor Andy was convinced of the claims of the Bible by the many eyewitness accounts of the acts of God contained within its pages. The fact that Jesus hung out with sinners and with the average person showed how much God cares about the sinner. He always reached out to them, healed their ills, fed their hunger, and even raised their dead. He cared about them so much that he sought them out where they were, not insisting they always seek Him out where He was. For Pastor Andy, this is a compelling picture of God. Jesus is the visible representation of the invisible God. It is through Him that we can see God as He is. Pastor Andy’s own experience with the reality of God in his life served to confirm everything he had read.

You can use your own journey in the life of Christ as a witness to reach those who follow other faiths. you ready?