

Does religion cause more problems than it solves?

Religion is more 'secular' than we think²

Readings:

Luke 18:9-14 Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Galatians 3:10,13 All who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." ... 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

Talk outline:

Usefulness

The success of the secular

The secular is more religious than we think¹

Truthfulness

Religions make truth claims

'Religion' causes problems only Jesus can solve

Jesus brings truth that proves useful

Discussion –Do you think Christianity is 'useful'? Do you think Christianity is truthful?

¹ Exodus 20

² 2 Corinthians 11:4