

The Perfect Story: A Skeptic's Guide to the Bible

FALL-WINTER 2019 Series @ The Story Houston

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11/24/19 - Pt. 3: Is the Bible Intolerant or Inclusive?

Before hearing today's message, how would you answer today's question? Is the Bible intolerant or inclusive? Why?

A Closer Look at the Inclusivity Movement

What are the stated aims of the secular inclusivity movement?

How are these aims self-contradictory and ultimately dehumanizing toward those they seek to include?

But isn't the Bible Exclusive?

Why do so many people feel that the Bible is rigid and exclusive?

Why is context so important when reading the Bible well?

What does the Bible Actually Say about Inclusion?

Genesis 17:1-5

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.

Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

7

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. **5** For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

Romans 11:32

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.