

Session Two

**Why the Church
Should Support Movement
“Beyond Belief”**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

**Forces in today's society are
ushering individual people
beyond the stage where
literal, separate beliefs are possible**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

**Think of spiritual development as
movement beyond (*specific*) beliefs (*which,
considered
individually, are divisive*)
toward faith (*more unitive, more inclusive*)**

Spiritual Development Theory

Spiritual growth:

an ever-broadening worldview

Lawless – MYSELF - Egocentric

Faithful – MY GROUP - Ethnocentric

Rational – EVERYDAY REALITY - Worldcentric

**Mystic – SEEN AND UNSEEN REALITY
Universal, all-inclusive, unitive.**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Faith Development, or

Spiritual Development Theory

addresses the movement of individual people

toward an increasingly broader worldview

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Faith Development, or Spiritual Development Theory

addresses the movement of **individual** people

toward increasingly larger circles of concern.

But our culture as a whole is also changing.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Faith Development, or Spiritual Development Theory

addresses the movement of **individual** people

toward increasingly larger circles of concern.

But our culture as a whole is also changing.

Is it changing for the better, or for the worse?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

**Cultural forces in today's world
support movement
to the Rational Level.**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Personal reading may conflict

with “teachings”

of the Church.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

New Atheist authors

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

New Atheist authors

- Richard Dawkins
- Christopher Hitchens
- Sam Harris

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

New Atheist authors

-Richard Dawkins – “The God Delusion”

(religion = byproduct of societal “memes”)

-Christopher Hitchens

-Sam Harris

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

New Atheist authors

-Richard Dawkins

-Christopher Hitchens –

“god is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything”

-Sam Harris

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

New Atheist authors

-Richard Dawkins

-Christopher Hitchens

-Sam Harris - “The End of Faith:

Religion, Terror and the Future of Reason”

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

New Atheist authors

-Sam Harris

-Richard Dawkins

-Christopher Hitchens

Exemplify Rational Level reasoning

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Scientific Advances

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Earth = just one planet in our Solar System

Solar System = just one of many in our Galaxy

Our Galaxy = just one of many in the Universe

Our Universe = constantly expanding, and over 13 billion years old

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Earth = just one planet in our Solar System

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Our Universe = constantly expanding, and over 13 billion years old

This perspective makes it hard to limit our understanding to the Bible, and Jesus, and Christianity.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

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Who “saved” any beings on all those other planets?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

This perspective makes it hard to limit our understandings to the Bible, and Jesus, and Christianity.

Who “saved” any beings on all those other planets?

Who “saved” any beings in all those other Solar Systems?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

This perspective makes it hard to limit our understandings to the Bible, and Jesus, and Christianity.

Who “saved” any beings on all those other planets?

Who “saved” any beings in all those other Solar Systems?

Who “saved” any beings in all those other Galaxies?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Global travel and trade

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

World-wide news

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Global communications

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Internet

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Multicultural neighborhoods

and

multicultural families

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Cultural intermixing

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Cultural intermixing

= a challenge to belief-based religions

that depend upon beliefs specific to one culture

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Cultural intermixing

= a challenge to belief-based religions

that depend upon a particular interpretation

= a threat to religious certainties

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

Cultural intermixing

= a challenge to belief-based religions

that depend upon a particular interpretation

= threatens religious certainties

= causes confusion if our religious “truths”

center around insular, culturally specific beliefs

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

This perspective makes it hard to limit our understandings to the Bible, and Jesus, and Christianity.

Many factors are weakening provincial belief-based religions.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

This perspective makes it hard to limit our understandings to the Bible, and Jesus, and Christianity.

Too many factors are weakening provincial belief-based religions.

Don't we need a "bigger" answer?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cultural forces supporting Rational movement

This perspective makes it hard to limit our understandings to the Bible, and Jesus, and Christianity.

Too many factors are weakening provincial belief-based religions.

**Don't we need a "bigger" perspective –
one that works for the whole universe?**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

This perspective makes it hard to limit our understandings to the Bible, and Jesus, and Christianity.

Don't we need a "bigger" answer?

**Spiritual development (Faith Beyond Belief)
points us to a bigger answer.**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

This perspective makes it hard to limit our understandings to the Bible, and Jesus, and Christianity.

Don't we need a "bigger" answer?

Spiritual development (Faith Beyond Belief)

points us to a bigger answer – at the individual level.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Spiritual development (Faith Beyond Belief)

points us to a bigger answer – at the individual level.

= belief → critical distance → faith

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Spiritual development (faith development)

points us to a bigger answer – at the individual level.

Belief (culturally specific)

Critical Distance

Faith (unitive faith – more inclusive)

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Spiritual development (faith development)

points us to a bigger answer – at the individual level.

Societal transformation

points us to a bigger answer

– at the cultural level.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny

The physical development of an individual

(from embryo to adult)

repeats the evolution of the species as a whole

(from monkey to homo sapiens).

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny

The development of an individual repeats the
evolution of the species as a whole.

-not entirely justified in biology

-but it may be valid in spiritual development

Why Move Beyond Belief?

**Faithful Stage – outer authority, conformity,
rigidity of belief,
repression of individuality.**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Faithful Stage – outer authority, conformity,
rigidity of belief,
repression of individuality.

Compares to Pre-Enlightenment Age

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Rational Stage

- conscience authority,**
- individualism,**
- demystification of reality,**
- focus on science and reason**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Rational Stage – conscience authority,

individualism,

demystification of reality,

focus on science and reason

Compares to Modernity/The Enlightenment

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Mystic Stage

**– spirit authority,
communality, reality beyond the
limits of science and reason**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Mystic Stage – spirit authority,
communality, reality beyond the
limits of science and reason

Compares to Post-Modernity

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny

Is our culture evolving?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny

Is our culture evolving
in a forward direction?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny

Is our culture evolving

in a good direction?

in a more spiritually mature direction?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny

Is our culture evolving

in a good direction?

In a more spiritually mature direction?

**Toward a post-modern, post-critical,
post-religious faith stance?**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny

Is our culture evolving

in a good direction?

in a more spiritually mature direction?

Are we becoming ready for a Faith Beyond Belief?

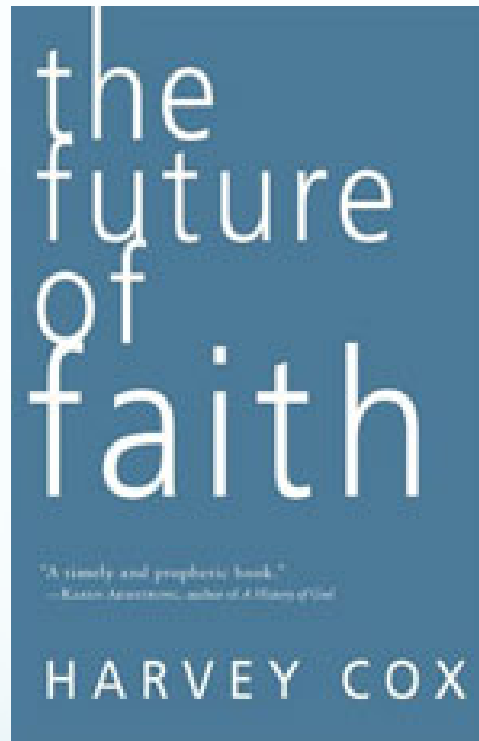
Why Move Beyond Belief?

Harvard theologian Harvey Cox suggests:

**“A profound change
in the elemental nature
of religiousness.”**

The Future of Faith, p. 1

Why Move Beyond Belief?



Why Move Beyond Belief?

Belief - intellectual assent to specific “truths”

VS

Faith - a deep-seated trust

- a basic posture toward the mystery
- an infinite variety of forms

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Early Christianity – The first 350 years of Christianity

More about trust and values,

Equality, Justice, and Hope.

Revolutionary (radical) ideas in those times

The Age of Faith

Why Move Beyond Belief?

The Age of Faith

More about trust and values

Equality

Justice, etc.

Also – no centralized seat of power

– very diverse

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Early Christianity - The Age of Faith

Not about beliefs

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Early Christianity - The Age of Faith

Not about beliefs.

*“During the first two centuries...the only “creed” Christians had was not an inventory of beliefs. It was a straightforward affirmation”**

**[I serve “the way” of Jesus,
as opposed to the way of Caesar.]**

**Cox, Harvey. The Future of Faith. p. 77

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Early Christianity - The Age of Faith

Not about beliefs.

**It was about a way of life
different from the culture of the time.**

“The Way”

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Constantine

Christianity was unified (sclerosed) into

Rigid creeds – Hierarchies – Doctrines

“Emphasis on belief began to grow when these primitive instruction kits [from early Christianity] thickened into catechisms, replacing faith in Jesus with tenets about him”

The Age of Belief

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Constantine –

350 AD to the Modern Era

The Age of Belief

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Constantine - The Age of Belief

350 AD to the Modern Era

***“Taken literally,
creeds...constitute more of a hindrance
than a help to Christian faith. They keep people
stalled in the obsolete Age of Belief.”****

*Cox, Harvey. The Future of Faith. p. 76

Why Move Beyond Belief?

**Today – we are on the cusp of
an
Age of the Spirit**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an
Age of the Spirit

*“...we are now passing, from
an expiring Age of Belief*

*into a new but not yet fully realized **Age of the Spirit**”**

*Cox, Harvey. The Future of Faith. p. 14

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Expiring Age of Belief:

Religious hierarchies are crumbling

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an Age of the Spirit

Religious hierarchies are crumbling

Creeds are weakening

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an Age of the Spirit

Religious hierarchies are crumbling

Creeds are weakening

Conformity of belief is not valued

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an Age of the Spirit

Religious hierarchies are crumbling

Creeds are weakening/conformity of belief is not valued

Emphasis on individual experience/expression

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an Age of the Spirit

Religious hierarchies are crumbling

Creeds are weakening/conformity of belief is not valued

Emphasis on individual experience/expression

Return to trust, values, “the Way”

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an Age of the Spirit

Religious hierarchies are crumbling

Creeds are weakening/conformity of belief is not valued

Emphasis on individual experience/expression

Return to trust, values, “the Way”

Though Cox calls it a return to Faith, it is actually an evolution.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of

an

Age of the Spirit

Spirituality

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an

Age of the Spirit

Spirituality

-reaction against “package of theological propositions” and “the religious corporations”*

*Cox, Harvey. The Future of Faith. p. 13

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an

Age of the Spirit

Spirituality

-reaction against “package of theological propositions” and “the religious corporations”*

-wonder and awe before the intricacy of nature

*Cox, Harvey. The Future of Faith. p. 13

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Today – we are on the cusp of an

Age of the Spirit

Spirituality

-reaction against “package of theological propositions” and “the religious corporations”

-wonder and awe before the intricacy of nature

**-reflects the increasingly porous borders between
the different traditions***

*Cox, Harvey. The Future of Faith. p. 14

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cox:

Age of the Spirit - general culture

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cox, et al - Age of the Spirit - general culture

SDT* - Faith Beyond Belief - individual level

(*Spiritual Development Theory)

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Cox's Age of the Spirit is akin to a Faith Beyond Belief

A Faith Beyond Belief

is where we seem to be heading as the

Age of Belief

evolves into an **Age of the Spirit**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

**Cox's Age of the Spirit
is akin to
a Faith Beyond Belief**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Is our culture evolving
toward a post-modern, post-critical,
post-religious faith stance?

Other factors to consider

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Other factors to consider:

Ancient mystics – similar to the perennial philosophy

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Other factors to consider:

Ancient mystics – similar to the perennial philosophy

Perennial philosophy similar to the Mystic Stage

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Other factors to consider:

Ancient mystics – similar to the perennial philosophy

Perennial philosophy similar to the Mystic Stage

Near-death experiences – lead people toward Mystic traits

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Other factors to consider:

Ancient mystics – similar to the perennial philosophy

Perennial philosophy similar to the Mystic Stage

Near-death experiences – lead people toward Mystic traits

Findings of quantum science – reality is more complex than what we can see and measure now.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Other factors to consider:

Ancient mystics – similar to the perennial philosophy

Perennial philosophy similar to the Mystic Stage

Near-death experiences – lead people toward Mystic traits

Findings of quantum science – reality is more complex than what we can see and measure now.

– points us beyond rational/modern reliance on reason and science (the kind of science people my age were taught in school)

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Quantum science:

- reality is more complex than what we can see and measure now
- points us beyond rational/modern reliance on what can be seen and measured now.
- **Points to post-modern understandings of reality**
- **Interconnection**

A Real Challenge

Current cultural shifts present a real challenge to belief-based religions.

**The world in which the religions were formed
bears little resemblance to
the world
as we know it today.**

A Real Challenge

**Current cultural shifts present
a real challenge
to belief-based religions.**

A Real Challenge

Current cultural shifts present a real challenge to belief-based religions.

The world in which the religions were formed bears little resemblance to the world as we know it today.

Mass confusion results.

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways.

All of them tend to distance people from healthy religion.

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown**
 - > staunch literalism**
 - > exaggerated, fear-based beliefs**

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.**
 - > staunch literalism
 - > exaggerated, fear-based beliefs
 - > **Religious Right**

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
 - > staunch literalism
 - > exaggerated, fear-based beliefs
 - > religious right

- Faithful Stage

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
 - > staunch literalism
 - > exaggerated, fear-based beliefs
 - > religious right
- **Faithful Stage**
- **(linger at the threshold between Lawless and Faithful)**

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
- 2) Push the questions out of their mind. Carry on as if there were no problem.**

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
- 2) Push the questions out of their mind. Do not respond much to societal chaos.**
 - > nominally religious**
 - > participate out of a sense of conformity**
 - > weak commitment**

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
 - 2) Push the questions out of their mind. Do not respond much to societal chaos.
 - > nominally religious
 - > participate out of a sense of conformity
 - > weak commitment
- **Also Faithful, but**
 - **Less fear-based**
 - **Less need of certainty**

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
- 2) Push the questions out of their mind. Carry on as if there were no problem.
- 3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.**

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People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
- 2) Push the questions out of their mind. Carry on as if there were no problem.
- 3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.**
 - > collapse the argument on the side that is easiest to deal with cognitively**
 - > ridicule religion**
 - > some were most harmed by religion**

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
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- Rational Stage

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- 3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.
- 4) **Free-lance spirituality.**

A Real Challenge

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- 3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.

4) Free-lance spirituality.

- > spiritual but not religious**
- > sometimes inauthentic beliefs and practices**
- > sometimes attempt to escape the everyday reality**
- > sometimes poor reality testing**

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
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 - > **spiritual but not religious**
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 - > **sometimes poor reality testing**

-Sound like Lawless

A Real Challenge

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

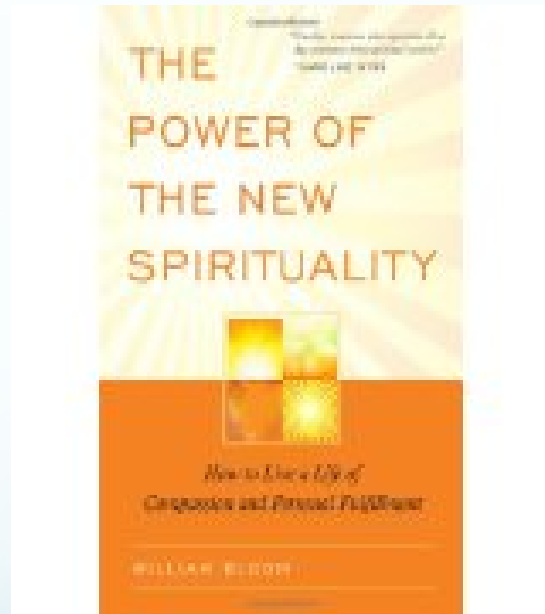
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-Sound like Lawless – could be any stage, even Mystic

A Real Challenge

Free-lance spirituality

-Sound like Lawless – could be any stage, even Mystic



Especially Mystic?

Is There Another Way?

**Current cultural shifts present
a real **challenge**
to belief-based religions.**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

**Cultural forces in today's world
support movement
beyond the Faithful level
- to the Rational Level**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

Harvey Cox:

Today – we are on the cusp of an Age of the Spirit

Religious hierarchies are crumbling

Return to

-trust

-values and

-openness to mystery.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

**Cox's Age of the Spirit
is akin to
a Faith Beyond Belief**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

- Who will LEAD people**
- beyond Rational Level?**
- into an Age of the Spirit?**
- toward a Faith Beyond Belief?**

Is There Another Way?

Current cultural shifts

present

A Great Opportunity

for Religions

The Opportunity

Current cultural shifts present

a great opportunity

for religions...

that acknowledge the existence of a

Post-critical faith

The Opportunity

Current cultural shifts present

a great opportunity

for religions...

that provide an avenue

toward a

Post-modern faith

The Opportunity

Current cultural shifts present

a great opportunity

for religions...

that inspire a

Mystic level faith

The Opportunity

Current cultural shifts present

a great opportunity

for religions...

that dare to allow a

Second Naïveté

The Opportunity

Current cultural shifts present

a great opportunity

for religions...

that are bold enough to point people toward a

Faith Beyond Belief

The Challenge

People respond to cultural confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
- 2) Push the questions out of their mind. Carry on as if there were no problem.
- 3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.
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The Challenge

People respond to cultural confusion in at least four different ways:

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- 4) Free-lance spirituality.

All of these problems exist because
people don't hear
the difference.

The Challenge

People respond to cultural confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
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- 4) Free-lance spirituality.

All of these problems exist because people don't hear the difference.

All of religion sounds like the Faithful Stage.

The Challenge

People respond to cultural confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
- 2) Push the questions out of their mind. Carry on as if there were no problem.
- 3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.
- 4) Free-lance spirituality.

All of these problems exist because

no one leads people

forward

Spiritual Development Theory

Two kinds of religious people:

Faithful

Believe literally

God as Outer Being

Security/comfort

Certainty

Belief

Mystic

“Believe” metaphorically

God as Universal Concept

Unity

Mystery

Faith

The Challenge

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- 3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.
- 4) Free-lance spirituality.

All of these problems exist because people don't hear the difference.

All of religion sounds like the Faithful Stage.

The Mystic Stage is not (yet) explicit in our culture.

The Challenge

People respond to cultural confusion in at least four different ways:

- 1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.
- 2) Push the questions out of their mind. Carry on as if there were no problem.
- 3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.
- 4) Free-lance spirituality.

Some people in your congregation are probably at risk of responding in these unhealthy ways to confusion from the outside culture.

Is There Another Way?

Current cultural shifts

present

A Great Opportunity

for Religions

A Great Opportunity

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

4) Free-lance spirituality.

- > spiritual but not religious
- > sometimes inauthentic beliefs and practices
- > attempt to escape the everyday reality
- > sometimes poor reality testing

Guiding people through the stages would bring a more orderly process to what now seems completely chaotic and unfocused.

A Faith Beyond Belief offers more authentic avenues of spiritual expression.

A Great Opportunity

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

4) Free-lance spirituality.

- > spiritual but not religious
- > sometimes inauthentic beliefs and practices
- > **attempt to escape the everyday reality**
- > sometimes poor reality testing

Spiritual development is
not about escaping
the everyday reality.

A Great Opportunity

**Spiritual development –
engaging a transcendent reality
to make our everyday interactions**

-more authentic

-more complete

-more fulfilling

A Great Opportunity

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

4) Free-lance spirituality.

- > spiritual but not religious
- > sometimes inauthentic beliefs and practices
- > attempt to escape the everyday reality
- > sometimes poor reality testing

**Who will LEAD these people
toward
a Faith Beyond Belief?**

A Great Opportunity

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.

- > collapse the argument on the side that is easiest to deal with cognitively**
- > ridicule religion**
- > some were most harmed by religion**
- > Rational Stage**

A Great Opportunity

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3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.

- > collapse the argument on the side that is easiest to deal with cognitively
- > ridicule religion
- > some were most harmed by religion
- > Rational Stage

Religious/spiritual FAITH:

is **about much more** than the
simplistic beliefs these people cannot accept

A Great Opportunity

-religious/spiritual FAITH: not all based on pre-critical beliefs these people cannot accept

-A post-critical faith is about

- values

- connection

- **would grant religion more respect, and less ridicule, from nonbelievers.**

A Great Opportunity

-religious/spiritual FAITH:

not all based on pre-critical beliefs these people cannot
accept

would grant respect, and less ridicule, from nonbelievers.

-A post-critical faith is about

- values

- connection

A Great Opportunity

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

3) Walk away from all forms of religion and from all spiritual connection.

- > collapse the argument on the side that is easiest to deal with cognitively
- > Rational Stage
- > ridicule religion
- > some were most harmed by religion

**Who will suggest to these people that
a mature spirituality is about
so much more
than beliefs?**

A Great Opportunity

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

2) Push the questions out of their mind. Carry on as if there were no problem.

- > nominally religious
- > participate out of a sense of conformity
- > weak commitment

Offering these people an avenue beyond belief would

- **challenge these people toward a more vibrant form of faith**
- **offer greater fulfillment**
- **inspire them to contribute more fully**

A Great Opportunity

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

2) Push the questions out of their mind. Carry on as if there were no problem.

- > nominally religious
- > participate out of a sense of conformity
- > weak commitment

Who will invite and inspire these people

to a more vibrant, more fulfilling,

more authentic faith than they

can currently even imagine?

A “Maybe” Opportunity?

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.

> staunch literalism

> exaggerated, fear-based beliefs

> religious right

Not in a good position to understand faith development, or mature spirituality.

A “Maybe” Opportunity?

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.

> staunch literalism

> exaggerated, fear-based beliefs

> religious right

Not sure they can be motivated individually.

A “Maybe” Opportunity?

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.

- > staunch literalism

- > exaggerated, fear-based beliefs

- > religious right

Not sure they can be motivated individually.

But being surrounded by less confusion and conflict would ease the tensions causing their fear.

A “Maybe” Opportunity?

People respond to this confusion in at least four different ways:

1) Cling to the old ways, the “known” – out of fear of the unknown.

- > staunch literalism
- > exaggerated, fear-based beliefs
- > religious right

**Who will model a
Faith Beyond Belief
that will reduce
these people’s fear?**

Why Move Beyond Belief?

A cultural transformation is afoot.

Why Move Beyond Belief?

A cultural transformation is afoot.

Is it a Crisis

OR

an Opportunity?

Why Move Beyond Belief?

A cultural transformation is afoot.

Who will lead it?

AND

Who will lag behind?