

These are some notes produced by Mr Rama after spending time listening to the thoughts of Patrick Sookhdeo on this matter. Some of it is interpreted, some of it is quoted.

The Equality Unit in a Nutshell

well... sort of

Introducing the 'GEDIT' box.
Please tick it if you really do, GEDIT.

This belongs to:

GEDIT?

THE TENSION IN BETWEEN

hopefully moving in this direction...?

Actual

Not always what the Bible says it should be - e.g. 1970s Racism.

The church is deeply flawed.

Jesus had 12 disciples:
- 1 betrayed him
- the rest ran off

ideal

Humans are the most precious thing in the world.

We have the divine stamp on us.

Made in the image of God.

Although we are fallen, God has placed great value on us by dying for us on the cross.

Men and Women are equal. Galatians 3. All life is precious whether old or young, gifted, talentless, ugly, beautiful, fee-paying, tramp, monarch, filmstar, extra, disabled, ballet dancer, educated, no passes. Whatever.

GEDIT?



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Is it possible to believe in Male Headship and still say that women are equal?



there is no superior culture or race

MAKING CHANGES

"See everything, accept a lot, change a little"

In us:

- being pleasant and helpful to others
- refuse to prejudge (or have prejudice)

In wider society and communities:

- fighting for legislation (law) changes
- setting up standards and situations that are better
- refuse to put up with bad standards

Actions—discrimination - can be outlawed

Attitudes—internal prejudice - can't be outlawed, but this is who we are.

GEDIT?



ECUMENISM...

When the Christian church tries to find common ground with it's many different parts.

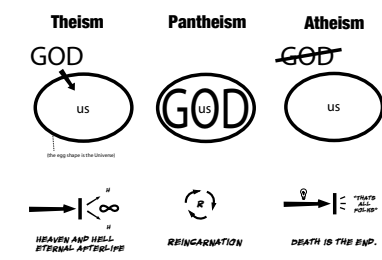
Unity is extremely important within the christian church because Jesus said that this is how people would be able to spot real believers.

Some christians have a problem with the ecumenical movement because they think that you can't have unity when there are important differences of belief.

CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER RELIGIONS

Our WORLD situation:

1. We live in a world full of religions.
2. Every religion considers itself to be unique.
3. Some religions are missionary
 - they believe that it is right to share what they have.
 - e.g Islam, Christianity, Theravada Buddhism



Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."
- John 14v6
- Jesus is pivotal
- "the Christian position"

How Christians should relate to others:

1. Be accurate in understanding them.
2. Followers of other religions deserve compassion.
3. Remain true to Jesus Christ - don't deny Him.

How Christians shouldn't act:

Be harsh or superior.
The good samaritan story - Luke 10.

"Differences are bad"
- they cause too many problems, so let everyone have the same views.

TWO VIEWS ON PLURALISM

WHERE ARE YOU?

"Differences are valuable"
- we must grow to understand each other and respect differences intelligently.

Are you intolerant if you have strong beliefs that are different to other people?



Do you agree that 'true tolerance understands and allows for difference'?

FORGIVENESS

This is built into the foundations of the Christian faith because Jesus' main mission was to bring forgiveness between God and Humans.

What it should look like in everyday life:

- turn the other cheek
- forgive not seven but seventy times seven
- not living with revenge

Reconciliation:

mainly for how Christians relate to each other and God

Peacemakers (is a better term to use):

God calls Christians to reach out and help people bridge difficult gaps - race, gender, religious intolerance etc.
e.g. Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Martin Luther King.

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