

Why we sometimes react strongly against “incorrect” theology

Many Christians, even universalists, react very negatively to certain doctrines or beliefs related to predestination vs. free will, Scripture inerrancy, the Trinity, soul sleep after death, homosexuality, and so on. As universalists, these issues should not be as bothersome, because we all believe that in the end things will work out well for everyone.

I think the reasons why emotions are so strong in some of these areas is that they all relate in some way to the authority and inspiration of Scripture. An attack on one of these controversial doctrines might be regarded as an attack on Scripture. Some universalists are universalists only because of what the Scriptures teach. Others are universalists because of extra-biblical sources of information, such as intuition, common sense, NDE's, and so on, which they feel contradict many teachings of Scripture. Still others, like myself, believe that both the Scriptures and extra-biblical sources may be relied upon, and are not contradictory when correctly analyzed and interpreted.

Some of us get pretty emotional when the foundation of our belief system is directly, or indirectly, challenged. I take great comfort in realizing that God obviously has chosen not to reveal these truths in clear and unambiguous terms. He could have easily accomplished this, if He had so desired. So, in my view, it is perfectly OK to be theologically incorrect. Even atheists would probably agree with us on many of the fundamentals, including basic concepts of morality, generosity, kindness, love, and justice. God has built these values into all of us, although in the case of some, they might be buried deep within the subconscious mind and not outwardly known or expressed. God's Holy Spirit is a Spirit of truth. In the end, the whole and complete truth will be known to all. Christian salvation is a process that occurs gradually over time.