



Beyond Belief with Marcus Borg

5. An Emerging Way

"Marcus wanted to make possible a re-engagement with faith for those for whom intellectual or emotional obstacles prevented them from going any further. As he would say, 'There's no right way to be a Christian. But there are many wrong ways.'"

-- Marianne Borg

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Chapter 1

Define:

Pre-Critical Naïveté

Critical Thinking

Post-Critical Naïveté

Share an expression of Christianity that you've encountered outside of your own tradition.

What do you suppose some of the differences are between a "believing understanding" and a "relational-Sacramental" understanding of Christianity?

Chapter 2

Why is the "belief-based" understanding of Christianity problematic for modern sensibilities?

Why is “faith as belief” impotent?

Share how your relationship with the Divine has transcended beliefs of the tradition in which you grew up.

Chapter 3

How is American Christianity's obsession with sin, guilt, and forgiveness an expression of misplaced individualism?

Define “systemic justice.”

According to Borg, what are some of the marks of the emerging (yet ancient) Christian Way?

How is thinking about Jesus' message as “subversive and alternative wisdom” different from the message you grew up with? How might it be helpful going forward?

How would you describe the two focal points Borg says were central in Jesus' own life?

What are some of the ways we can attend to a deepening spirituality?

If we took seriously Jesus' call to be passionate about both compassion and justice, how might that be reflected in our lives?

Further Questions

Which ideas from this session did you resonate with? Which did you find challenging?

What are the implications of this material for you personally? For your community? For faith-based institutions as a whole?