



Beyond Belief with Marcus Borg

6. Beyond Belief

"You can believe all the right things and still be a jerk. And to soften that, you can believe all the right things and still be miserable or still be in bondage or still be untransformed. And so the emphasis upon belief is, I think, modern and mistaken. It's also very divisive. And once people start thinking that being a Christian is about believing the right things, then anybody's list of what the right things are to believe becomes a kind of litmus test."

-- Marcus Borg

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Chapter 1

How does knowing that each of us goes through various "stages of faith" foster an understanding of our own doubts and struggles?

How much does this knowledge persuade you to have patience with where other people are in their faith development?

How would you describe what Borg calls the "deep yearnings" within most human beings?

Chapter 2

What are the implications of moving away from a supernatural theism toward a mystical, panentheistic understanding of the divine?

If the guarantee of a “blessed hereafter” is a “terrible, terrible motive for Christianity,” what, then, is being a Christian all about?

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?

For Reflection

What one idea from the entire series will you take with you as constructive or transformational for your spiritual life?

“Being a Christian is about a relationship with God and the transformation of our lives in the present into more and more compassionate beings. It's about our transformation – here and now.”

-- Marcus Borg