



## Question the Question

Someone recently asked me to help them find the true church. You've probably heard the wise proverb, "If you ask the wrong question, you'll probably wind up with the wrong answer." If you allow someone to set the agenda and ask all the questions, the answers you give will take you exactly where the person asking the questions wants you to go.

So, my initial response to the person who wanted to know where they could find the true church was to **question the question**—then I posed a question of my own!

My answer went something like this: "I assume you are looking for one 'true' legally-incorporated entity, one body of dogmas and doctrines, one physical address, one building or piece of real estate or one denomination which is 'true' and all other forms of Christianity are, by definition, 'false.' That's what you mean, I assume, by a 'true' church. Let me ask you a question: Who told you there is, or ever has been, such a thing as one true physically identifiable, legally-incorporated entity known as a church? Where did you get that idea?"

The world is filled with deceitful questions that can lead to answers that lead to erroneous and painful consequences. The cautionary and safe practice of **questioning the question** is not just necessary when discussing theology and religion—it is a firmly entrenched practice within science, as scientists ask themselves whether they are asking the right question or whether a wrong-headed question is leading

them down the garden path.

Scholars and researchers in all disciplines **question the question**. For lawyers, forensic investigators, police, parents, consumers, voters—**questioning the question** is necessary, isn't it?

In many cases, when someone is asking you questions, they resent you asking questions right back, because they don't want you to get off topic—that is, **they don't want**

**Where is the true church? If you mean, is there one and only one authentic geographically located spiritual destination—one and only one organized group with one and only one set of true dogmas and doctrines, you are on a fool's errand!**

**you off their topic**. They want to lead you down *their* primrose path, but when you take the initiative to ask questions of them you will put a serious dent in how far down that path they can take you.

Telemarketers are a perfect illustration. Telemarketers are schooled in the art of asking leading questions. The technique works. They want you to answer their questions and jump on board their train of thought because that will lead you to the destination they have in mind, which invariably will mean they will make money from the answers you give to their carefully planned questions.

Theological hucksters and con-artists sell esoteric truth they claim few people know about—the *one true church* is their appeal. They dangle the seductive fruit of knowing and benefitting from

something not available or known to others—so that you'll believe you are special and unique. If you fall for their sales pitch you may wind up bamboozled, hoodwinked and swindled.

In John 8:32, Jesus said, in reference to the relationship he invites us to embrace, "You will know the truth—[that is, "you will know me"] and **THE TRUTH** [the ultimate, eternal and forever truth who is one and the same as Jesus] will set you free."

The Truth, who is Jesus, will set us free. And what, pray tell, will lies do for us?

**QUESTION THE QUESTION:** question the assumptions and presuppositions behind the question. If the true church concerns Truth personified,

Jesus, the head of a universal church that has no boundaries or walls, then the answer is obvious.

**QUESTION THE QUESTION:** The question is neither WHERE the true church is physically located nor WHAT specifically are its physical characteristics.

**The question is this: WHO is the true church?**

*Jesus is the way and the truth and the life* (John 14:6) and he will lead you and me to freedom—freedom, as Paul advises in Galatians 5:1, that will never again allow us to be burdened with a yoke of spiritual slavery. □

—Greg Albrecht

Join us for the complete message of "Question the Question" at the audio teaching ministry of Christianity Without the Religion, the week of September 6, 2020.