



Who do you think you are? Thinking Like a Christian April-June 2020

Where are we and where are we going?

1. Where are we?

What are the biggest challenges Christians & Christianity face today?

2. Where are we going?

a) Where History is headed

Matthew 25:31-33,46; Acts 17:30-31; 1 Corinthians 15:22-25-26; 2 Peter 3:9

Where is history headed?

What is God doing in history?

Why has Jesus not yet returned?

Where history has always been headed

Revelation 21:1-4

Ephesians 5:31-32

Genesis 2:21-24

Ephesians 1:1-14

God has planned the whole of history as the way Christ will receive his bride, the church, from his torn side. All of history is about the marriage of Christ and the church.

What would you say...

Christianity has to change with the times, not get stuck in the past

The church always lags so far behind the rest of society; get with the programme.

Obviously we can't believe in what the Bible says about (insert issue) any more.

It's fine to believe what you want at home, but don't bring it into work.

You still believe that everyone should believe in the same God? This is 2020!

What we know of as 'Christianity' is just a mishmash of how peoples' views developed over the last 2000 years. It could easily have ended up completely different.

3. Understanding Church History

Genesis 3: the basic structure of sin

All church history is sin rearing its head sometimes outside – but more importantly inside – the church. All heresy comes from the mouth of the snake. Refuse to accept that God is really God; try to claim some of his deity for ourselves.

Era	False teaching	Which said...
2 nd Century	Gnosticism	
4 th Century	Arianism	
5 th Century	Pelagianism	
6 th -9 th Century	Other Gods, magic, superstition etc.	
Reformation	The pope etc.	
17 th Century	Laudianism	
18 th Century	Formalism	
19 th /20 th Century	Liberalism	

4. Today's situation

The worship of freedom

The obsession with identity

The dangers for the church:

Liberalism is still with us (generally on the left)

Pelagianism is newly attractive (generally on the right)

2 Timothy 1:8-14

Don't be ashamed

Be prepared to suffer