

## **SO MANY QUESTIONS**

### ***Question 7: Discussing religion just divides people and causes problems!***

#### **Think about it**

1. What kind of question is this?
  - a. Knowing (needing evidence)
  - b. Meaning (knowing what 'the truth' about God is)
  - c. Living (moral issues / how we ought to live)
  
2. What are some of the reasons someone might have for asking this question?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How would you go about answering this question? Jot down the kinds of things you think could be included in an answer.

#### **Summarize your answer**

In your own words, using three or four simple points, write down how you would answer the question/challenge "Discussing religion just divides people and causes problems!"

**Do not turn page over until after you complete this side! 😊**

## **For further thought:**

### ***Discussing religion just divides people and causes problems!***

- Well, maybe it does, but what's so bad about that? When we discuss important issues, people always have differences of opinion. We disagree about politics, the environment and education; should we just stop talking to each other so that we never disagree?
- Most of us would agree that important questions have to be raised, even if they do cause division. Why? Because when there are issues of truth, issues of justice, and issues of right and wrong, division matters.
- Very often when we say "Discussing religion just divides people and causes problems", what we actually mean is that religion is a private matter and that people can believe whatever they like. There is no point discussing religion because it's just my opinion versus your opinion.
- Jesus came and taught and lived and died and rose again so that everyone can be forgiven and come to know God. If that is true, it matters. If it isn't true, then that matters too. But surely Jesus is just too important to leave on the shelf gathering dust. He is too important *not* to talk about—even if he does cause division.

## **Other approaches**

- The real issue is not that we discuss religion too much; we actually discuss it too little. More to the point, we want to leave God out of the picture and help him at a comfortable distance from our day-to-day lives. But that is the root cause of all our problems. We try to live life as if God weren't there, but we not only make a mess of our own lives, we also make a mess of the lives of others and the world around us. Because we have rejected and rebelled against God, we are under his judgement. That's why we need Jesus. He is the only way we can escape that judgement, and receive new and eternal life.

## **Further reading:**

- Don Carson, *The Gagging of God*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2002 (for advanced readers).