



The Exchange Discussion Questions “Is Religion a Crutch?”

Interdependency

1. Do you find it easy or hard asking someone for help? Why or why not?
2. 'Many hands make light work.' 'There is strength in numbers.' How is it beneficial to you to be dependent on someone else? How is it detrimental?
3. What implications does society's emphasis on independence have on how we perceive ourselves and God?
4. Is there a difference between pride and self-sufficiency? Is one worse than the other?

Religion as a crutch:

5. Dismissing religion as a crutch is a way of denying the need for external (or divine) assistance in one's life. Do you think it is easier to dismiss religion as a crutch than to consider why we might need God? Why or why not?
6. The concept of Christianity using 'faith' as a crutch seems to imply weakness. Do you think there are 'non-faith based' alternatives?
7. Are there ways in which people can be overly dependent on religion? If so, what might this look like and what can we learn from it?
8. David says that God is our fortress, our refuge, our rock and our salvation. Are these synonyms for 'crutch,' or are they different?
9. Can you think of biblical examples where people used God as a crutch? Were they praised or condemned? Do you think their lives turned out well? Would you want your life to turn out the same way?
12. As we grow as Christians, how does our relationship with Christ change? Do we become less dependent or more dependent?
14. Compare the story of Nebuchadnezzar with the way Jesus approached his relationship with God. How do we see humility at work in the life of Jesus?

Bonus Question

Are there better or worse reasons for coming to God? Which of the following appeals most (or least) to you: Following God because He is true. Following God because you need him. Following God because you can't live without him. Following His way because His way is nobler. Following God because you were raised that way.