

As most readers of the blog know, I do a good number of public debates, almost always (I'm trying to think if there is an exception!) with conservative evangelical Christians or fundamentalists who think that my views are dangerous to the good Christians of their communities and to all those non-Christians they very much want to convert. My view all along has been that my historical views are not a threat to Christian faith, but only to a particular (and particularly narrow) understanding of that faith. But most of my debate partners can't see things that way. For them, their views are Christianity, and any other kind of Christianity is not actually Christianity.

I usually look forward to these debates in advance, but I have to say that almost every time I'm actually having one, I start jotting notes to myself, asking "Why Am I Doing This?" or "Why Do I Do This To Myself?" I often find the debates very frustrating.

I imagine my debate partners do as well. They just can't understand why I don't see the truth. Or rather, they think that because I'm a fallen creature who does not have faith (or am willful; or wicked; or rebellious) that I simply can't see the truth that is staring me right in the eyes.

For my part I certainly don't understand why...

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