
An Invitation

ISSUE 0.0



CIVIL DIALOGUE
PAGE 2



MY DESIRE
PAGE 2



THE FIRST ISSUE
PAGE 4

THE IRON BLOCK



An invitation

Truth matters. The Bible implores we interact with one another, discouraging one group to remain isolated from others. I wonder how iron can sharpen iron if the two aren't clashing? If we are to be sharpened against one another, we must communicate—particularly about those things we disagree. I, for one, long for a gentleman's spar with you all for the benefit of our community.

Cooperation for the sake of truth is, perhaps, the most elusive aspect of religion today.

This being said, I want to issue an invitation for 2020. I issue this invitation because there are so many differing worldviews in our community, and I believe truth is an important thing to discover. If I am wrong, I want to be corrected. If I am correct, I want to lead others into maturity. So, I want to release a monthly newsletter where we talk about our differing views. If you receive this, I want to include you in some way.

Who can contribute?

For the sake of clarity and to ensure that we are getting the best of what our communities have to offer, I only want to accept contributions from lead pastors or a person they select from their congregations. Since my goal is to receive differing viewpoints, I also want to include contributions from religious groups other than those that are strictly Christian. When we are isolated from the world around us, I fear that we will amuse ourselves to death with no real grasp on why people think differently than we do and if we might be wrong about anything. So, if you hold the lead position in your local church, synagogue, mosque, or other type of religious center, I want you to contribute or assign someone in your congregation or group to contribute on your behalf.

Civil dialogue

I don't have to try very hard to convince you that civil dialogue is a concept lost on our society. If there is a disagreement, people are quick to fight, ignore, or excommunicate. This is no way to discover truth, especially theological truth. Solomon wrote it well, "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). There is a desperate need in our community for this type of civil dialogue. Unfortunately, we just can't do as well or have as much of an impact when we are isolated. If there can only be one truth and we are not talking about it, we cannot very well claim to understand much more than the positions we take—making it likely that our convictions are not very strong.

My desire for my own congregation

I want my congregation to be exposed to more than only my teaching. I want them to be exposed to opposing viewpoints. I want them to wrestle with difficult questions. I want them to be

We want to significantly impact our community in 2020.



I want to invite you to participate in meaningful dialogue and earn a commission doing so.

We can't keep simply doing our own thing while ignoring the world.

challenged in their personal theologies. I don't want them to have a blind faith. I want this because I want them to be strong in their faith. I hope you desire the same things. This is the most beneficial way that we can cooperate together for the benefit of our congregations.

Who will sponsor this?

This newsletter will not be sponsored by any local church and we will not promote any religious or denominational group more than another. Your church or other religious organization will be listed by your article and each group will get to place one article per month. This newsletter will be sponsored by Christoa Ministries, INC (CM). Through CM, we will be able to publish, print, and distribute newsletters in our community and worldwide. We reached more than 45,000 readers this year and will increase our reach next year. I want you to be a part of that.

How can people subscribe?

People will be able to subscribe at christoa.com for either a print newsletter to arrive in their mailboxes or an e-newsletter to be delivered to their email. Prices will be determined depending on your response to my invitation. The option will appear after I hear back from you and have enough people to write for the first month. So, please let me know ASAP. I want you in on this.

Commissions?

We will give out writing commissions on the 20th of each month. A 20% commission will be divided among the writers for each issue. So, you will earn for your writing.

Can I respond to others?

Yes! The point of meaningful dialogue is to have a meaningful conversation. If you write a *good* response to someone's initial article, it will be included and you will earn a commission for that response as well. If your response is not a good response, we will not include it and you will not earn a commission. Each contributor is limited to one response per issue and the response must deal with an article in the previous issue.

Deadlines?

The deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month. All articles submitted after the 20th will not be included in the issue for the current month.

Topic?

The topic for the next month will be listed on the current month's newsletter. As a contributor, you will receive an e-newsletter on the first of each month.

Length?

All articles and responses should be 1000 words or less.

Private publishing?

Your article should not be published anywhere else. Your name will always be attached to your article. We will only make grammatical corrections. Once you submit your article, it becomes the property of Christoa Ministries. Our agreement is that you always receive credit for your work. If your work is published anywhere else, you will earn a 20% commission on that as well.

Will anyone be rejected as a contributor?

Yes. If we already have a writer writing from your worldview perspective, we will not accept your writing at this time but may at a later date. We will simply reject your writing if 1) it is not civil, 2) it is abrasive or disrespectful of other worldviews, 3) it does not deal with the topic, and 4) you don't hold a qualified position in a religious community as described above.

Letter to the editor?

Anyone can send a letter to the editor. This letter may be included in the subsequent issue or not.

The topic for the first issue (February 2020):

What is the place of religion in society?

This will be our introductory newsletter and will be available free to the public and for the participants in our congregations. For this introductory issue, consider the distinctives of your religious/denominational viewpoint. What differences (positive and negative) does religion make in society and why? Are there any dangers present for people who are religious but not committed to any particular viewpoint (secular spiritualism)?

I wanted to begin with a topic that isn't as controversial as some others we may highlight. Here are the topics for the rest of 2020:

March: Who is God?

April: Jesus Christ, God or man?

May: Humanity, worms or gods?

June: Is Church Membership Beneficial?

July: Is Specialized Ministry Beneficial?

August: To What Degree Should We Be Accepting of Others?

September: What Place Does The Bible Have In Our Lives?

October: Which Is More Important, Our Personal Walk in Faith or Our Participation With a Religious Group?

November: Why Is There Evil and Suffering In The World?

December: What Part Do Works Play In Human Salvation?