

Why I Believe in God: a look at pantheism

Read 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 4:1

1. Have you ever had the opportunity to defend the Christian faith? How so?
Describe:
2. What is pantheism?
3. How might pantheism appeal to people?
4. How has pantheism been popularized in the West?
5. Have you unknowingly embraced any pantheistic thinking?
6. Jim listed 4 Scary Conclusions to Pantheism. They are:
 - a. *To realize one's oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond personality.*
 - b. *To realize one's oneness (with god) cosmos is to pass beyond knowledge (leave knowledge).*
 - c. *To realize one's oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond good and evil.*
 - d. *Since Pantheism teaches that all is divine, ultimately people have no more value or purpose than any other thing.*
7. Review the scary conclusions to pantheism. Discuss them. To review in laymen's terms:
 - a. *To realize one's oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond personality.*
 - a.i. This notion is diametrically opposed to theism because God and man are personal and need not be released from personality.
 - a.ii. To come to salvation is to lose you (your identity and uniqueness).
 - b. *To realize one's oneness (with god) cosmos is to pass beyond knowledge (leave knowledge).*
 - b.i. Law of Identity: $A = A$
 - b.ii. Law of Non-contradiction: If $A = A$ then A is not non- A
 - b.iii. If all is one, then $A = A$ and $A = \text{non-}A$.
 - c. *To realize one's oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond good and evil.*

- c.i. The pantheist would say that both good and evil come from God; they are from the same source.
- c.ii. The pantheist would say that there is no difference between good and evil.
- c.iii. "The Ying-Yang"
- d. *Since Pantheism teaches that all is divine, ultimately people have no more value or purpose than any other thing.*
 - d.i. If we're all one, and we are not distinct from one another, then I have no more value or worth than a rotten tomato, earth worm or stray cat.