

ENGAGING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

Talking in the Cul-de-Sac

Robert is a kind, but hard-nosed government worker. He holds a responsible position and oversees several dozen laborers. He trains people in his profession and is seen as an expert in his field.

He knows I pastor a church. While he does not attend any worship services, he views himself as a Christian. On occasion we chat as I am coming or going. One day he waved and I stopped to see how he was doing.

“There were some religious people going from door-to-door,” he reported. “I told them they could believe anything they wanted, but I have my own beliefs.” With that statement he told them “to each his own.”

He told me about the incident and paused to get my reaction. My mind raced for an acceptable response. Clearly he hoped I would approve. He wanted assurance that he had done the right thing. After all he felt they were a cult and so it was best to brush them off.

“You wanted to treat them kindly and not be influenced by them, right?” I inquired.

“Yes,” he smiled.

I continued, “It is hard to be tolerant without endorsing pluralism, isn’t it?”

He nodded.