



DISCUSSION GUIDE

What do evangelical Christians want for America?

Shirley Hoogstra

In This Episode...

Shirley Hoogstra, president of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, advocates for 500,000 students on 188 campuses in the United States and beyond. She talks about the diversity among evangelical Christians and why Christians are called to interfaith work: “The CCCU wants to stand for Muslims, Jains, Buddhists, Hindus, and other faiths to practice fully and flourish.”

Episode Guest: Shirley Hoogstra

A visionary leader who is passionate about Christian higher education and the role it plays in the common good, Shirley V. Hoogstra became the seventh president of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities in September 2014. She has focused on expanding diversity and inclusion on CCCU campuses and making education available, accessible, and affordable to all students. Hoogstra serves on the steering committee for the Washington Higher Ed Secretariat, is a leader for the Evangelical Immigration Table, and serves on the boards of the American Council on Education, the National Association of Evangelicals, and Trinity Forum.

Suggested Discussion Questions

- Shirley says that, at its best, higher education equips students to lead noble lives. What in your life do you consider to be noble?
- Shirley and Eboo commiserate over the fact that both Muslims and evangelical Christians are often thought of in monolithic ways, despite immense intracommunal diversity. Shirley says that even within the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, there are 35 different denominations with differing beliefs about things as important as salvation and human nature.
- Did this conversation prompt you to think about Evangelicals differently? If so, how?
- Shirley talks about how CCCU’s most watched video is of different faith leaders talking about what is good in their traditions. What is one good thing from your philosophical or religious tradition? What do you think makes these good aspects of traditions compelling to people from different backgrounds?
- Shirley says that interfaith dialogue is a priority for CCCU’s members because they all care deeply about faith and the freedom to flourish in it, and desire religious freedom for all. This is one area in which evangelical Christians and people from other traditions have found a common cause.
- What is one time you’ve worked together on a common problem with someone who believes differently than you? What was the issue? How did it inform your perception of the person and their belief system?
- Eboo describes his parents’ admiration for Christian institutions, and how it influenced him to become more appreciative of other faiths. What is an institution or practice from another tradition that you admire?