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**Christian Beliefs RELT 202**

**Discussion Questions Due 05/22/19**

**Rice Chapter 9**

1. Page 207: Rice makes a fantastic point that I haven’t heard anywhere before, and I thought was profound. He talks about how personal religious experience should not be emphasized as much as it is, and that we should focus on our own well-being more so that we can serve others (but not be absorbed in our well-being). I think this is incredibly important for us as a church to realize.
2. Page 209: Rice mentions that a community like the church is found nowhere else in the world due to their belief in God. Isn’t this a little bit of an overstatement? Nations and tribes have formed communities that may connect their members much deeper than that of the church, who tend to look up to God while worshipping, rather than communicating solely with their fellow members. This is not a bad thing, but I have questions about how Rice chose to describe the church community.
3. To expand on question 1, I have a related question. Can we really get more spiritual fulfillment out of personal experience and study rather than belonging to an organized church? Couldn’t we form our own small groups to worship with and study with and still gain the benefits of belonging to an organized religion?
4. How do we explain the prophecies of Ellen White? Why did God decide that she was to be a prophet in modern times? And what evidence do we have that she was not a false prophet? I ask these questions out of ignorance of the subject, as I have little understanding of her works.