



ANSWERS TO LIFE'S 7 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

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HOW CAN I KNOW CHRISTIANITY IS THE RIGHT RELIGION?

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Introduction: If you want to cause a stir, try saying this in a group of non-Christians or Christians: “Only Christians are going to heaven, and followers of other faiths are going to hell.” Is there only one path that leads to God or are all religions equally valid? Today we are going to look at Christianity’s most controversial claim.

I. The Implications Of Inclusivism

- A. Personal
- B. Relational
- C. Spiritual

Matthew 7:13-14 “¹³ Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

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“Those of us who have grown up in the Christian tradition think it’s rather obvious that God belongs to our tradition. We assume God is one of us. But it’s just as apparent to people who grew up in different religions that God’s Word and God’s ways are not the exclusive property of the Christian tradition. There are people of genuine piety and profound religious conviction who have come to that piety through other avenues . . . God is not a Christian. God is not a Jew. God is not a Hindu. God is above all our perceptions and all our expressions of God . . . this in no way diminishes my own Christian commitment. We should never assume that the validity of the Christian tradition is dependent on the invalidity of every other tradition.” Kirby Godsey

II. Why do People Reject Exclusivism?

A. Exclusivism Is **Intolerant**

1. Psuedo-tolerance

“I don’t think that all fundamentalists are bad people. But there’s not a dime’s worth of difference between Christian, Jewish, Muslim or Hindu fundamentalists. They’re all cut from the same cloth. Fundamentalist exclusivity, where God is identified with the Christian order, and therefore everything that challenges that social order is a challenge to God and should be a challenge to all Christians and humanity, seems to lead to the kind of terrible human tragedy we witnessed in Norway [a reference to a shooting spree by a man who claimed to be defending Christianity].” Kirby Godsey

2. True tolerance

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B. Exclusivism Is Unnecessary

“There is only one religion, though there are hundreds of versions of it.” George Bernard Shaw

Religions Differ In Their Views Concerning...

1. God
2. Man's problem
3. The afterlife

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

“Every religion at its core is exclusive.” Ravi Zacharias

C. Exclusivism Is Troubling

Why Do So Many People Embrace Wrong Religion?

1. Human beings are “insatiably religious”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 “He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.”

2. Human beings are “incurably rebellious”

Romans 1:20, 22-23 “²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.”

Conclusion

Next week: How Can I Know Christianity Is The Right Religion? Part 2