



THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.

“I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”

JOHN 14:6

THE UPPER ROOM.

- The public ministry is over.
- This is Jesus' last meal with his friends.
- The next four chapters detail Jesus' final night... the hours leading up to his betrayal and crucifixion.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus is THE way, and THE truth, and THE life,
no one comes to the Father except through him.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

To God.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE.

Not: A way, A truth, A life...

...But: Jesus is THE way, THE truth, THE life.

Christianity is radically EXCLUSIVE.

The early Christians understood this at the core. We believe something very specific about creation, the nature of humanity, and how to be rescued. We believe that all men are sinners and the only way to be saved from the punishment of sin and enter into right relationship with God is through Jesus. There is only ONE way to be saved. In response to Jesus' statement right here in John 14, early Christians called themselves **“the Way.”** (Acts 9:2)

Christianity is a radically INCLUSIVE exclusive.

All are welcome to join the Way. We've seen this throughout history with the type of people that have been transformed by Jesus. Nobody is too far gone. Heaven is filled with people who don't fit the church stereotype. Jesus pushes people to a place that they realize there is no hope besides Him.

Illustration: John Newton

1. Jesus is the Way (v. 14a)

→ **What does this mean?**

Jesus is the “link between God and sinners.”¹ The Bible makes it clear that the way to intimacy with God is through redemption in Jesus.

→ **Objections:**

But who are you to say that there's only one way? Jesus is your truth, but he's not mine.

→ **What does the Bible teach?**

The Bible is clear throughout that salvation is through Christ alone. Jesus' statements throughout the book of John have driven this point down.

John 10:9 – “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”

John 10:25-26 – “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

→ **What this means for Christians:**

Don't apologize for the exclusivity of the gospel. Don't function as if all religions lead to Heaven. Do some serious reckoning in your own heart by asking yourself the question, “Am I a Christian or am I a Universalist?”

¹Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 570.

The missional demands of the gospel only make sense in light of the gospel's exclusivity. Why would we tell others about Jesus and the hope of the gospel unless we actually believe that he is our only hope? **If you do not have the burden of the lostness in this community, maybe you don't actually believe that Jesus is the only way.**

2. Jesus is the Truth (v. 14b)

→ **What does this mean?**

Jesus is the embodiment of truth. Think moral purity in speech and conduct. But don't think stereotype of uptight preacher man. Those men say one thing, but their lives often look nothing like the truth. Jesus both tells us to love God and his character reveals a joyful, intimate relationship with the rest of the Godhead.

He proclaims the truth and he embodies the truth.

→ **Objections:**

But what is truth? This was Pilate's question in John 18:38.

→ **What does the Bible teach?**

When the book of John uses the word and concept of *truth*, it is referring to the truth of the message of the gospel embodied by Christ. That there is an objective purpose for Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection that affects for all people. Just because you don't believe it, in other words, doesn't make it less true. The gospel teaches that all men are under condemnation of God for their sin, but God shows his mercy through Jesus' death on the cross. The truth is that you can have forgiveness today by following him.

→ **What this means for Christians:**

In an age that can't seem to figure out what truth is, you can boldly proclaim THE truth! You can have confidence that you aren't believing your truth or my truth, but THE truth. You can rest secure on Jesus. And you can boldly proclaim the life-transforming truth to others!

3. Jesus is the Life (v. 14c)

→ **What does this mean?**

To Jesus, merely existing doesn't constitute as truly living. It's one of the things that draws me to him. He confirms what we all know in our hearts, "There must be something more than this." Jesus is saying, "Yes! You are right! To truly live is to know true satisfaction and eternal joy in me!"

→ **Objections:**

But if Jesus is true life, why do I enjoy all these things so much?

→ **What does the Bible teach?**

Jesus doesn't make you get rid of the joy in your life or rob you of your plans; instead, he gives them a purpose! The thing that makes Christians unique is that we know the things we like to do can't ultimately fulfill us. We may enjoy them, but at some point, that joy always runs out and tomorrow comes. Only Jesus truly fulfills, which allows us to look to the things we like to do as gifts we get to enjoy instead of sources of fulfillment.

→ **What this means for Christians:**

You can know true satisfaction in Christ. You can know true joy in Christ. You can have true confidence in Christ. You can know true hope in Christ. You can know true peace in Christ. That is true life. Because your life is set and secure in one.

AIM FOR THE HEART.

- 1.** To the one who doesn't know the way, let not your hearts be troubled: Jesus is the way. Follow him. (v. 5)
- 2.** To the one who fears acceptance, let not your hearts be troubled: there is room for you in Heaven and Jesus is preparing for you (vv. 1-4)
- 3.** To the one who feels like he doesn't know Jesus well enough, let not your hearts be troubled: Jesus has revealed himself to us. Spend some time getting to know him through the Bible. (vv. 8-11)
- 4.** To the one who wishes they could see great things, let not your hearts be troubled: Jesus' design is to use us to accomplish greater things. He can use you to transform FGCU with the gospel (vv. 12-14).