

Apologetics | Week 6

The Challenge of Exclusivism

I. Evidentiary Approach

- a. Exclusive religious claims possible, ubiquitous, meaningful for billions
- b. Other religions make distinctive truth claims
- c. Christianity makes distinctive truth claims
 - i. About the forgiveness of sins
 - ii. About the person and work of Jesus
 - iii. About the role of personal faith
- d. Many millions convert to Christianity

II. Presuppositional Approach: “There can’t be just one true religion!”

- a. “There is no true religion”
 - i. No ultimate meaning/transcendence?
 - ii. No system giving an account of ultimate meaning/transcendence?
 - iii. No religion superior to another?
 - iv. What’s the epistemic status of the original claim?
- b. “All religions teach the same message”
 - i. Do they?
 - ii. What is it?
 - iii. How do you know?
- c. “Each religion teaches a portion of the truth, none has it all”
 - i. The problem of “the elephant.”
- d. “Religious conviction is based on where you are born”
 - i. What about a secular culture that produces secularists?
- e. “It’s arrogant to claim your religion is the only true one”
- f. “God wouldn’t send the heathen to hell”
- g. “Claims to exclusivity cause societal violence”
 - i. Compared to claims that religion should be excluded – USSR, PRC
 - ii. What does Christianity say is the attitude toward unbelievers?
 - iii. What is the actual record of Christian persecution of unbelief?
 1. Spanish Inquisition: 300 yrs, 150k prosecutions, 3-5k deaths
 2. Marian Persecution: 300 deaths; Salem: 20 deaths

III. Conclusions