

1.28.2024

## “Hey God I’ve Got A Question”

# Is Jesus The Only Way To God

*“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one can come to the Father except through Me.’”  
John 14:6 (NLT)*

## Three Big Myths about Jesus in Our Culture

- 1) All religions are basically the same.
- 2) All religions are equally valid and have claims on the truth.
- 3) Christians are arrogant and narrow minded to claim Jesus is the only way to God.

### I. Myth #1: All religions are basically the same.

- **The Bible Teaches:** Christianity teaches the **OPPOSITE** of world religions and is in a category by itself.

*“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”  
Acts 4:12 (NLT)*

- Summary of **world religions:** **DO**
- Summary of **Christianity:** **DONE**
- Jesus taught the **opposite** of what world religions teach.

*“...He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5 (NLT)*

- **“Coexist”?**
  - We should certainly treat those who believe differently with **kindness and respect**.
  - But we should certainly know that our beliefs are **very, very different**.

### II. Myth #2: All religions are equally valid and have claims on the truth.

- **The Bible Teaches:** Jesus backs up His claims with **UNIQUE CREDENTIALS**.
- **Pluralism:** the belief that all world religions are **true and equally valid** in their communication of the truth about God, the world, and salvation. (Google)
- **Tolerance:** treating people with whom we **disagree with dignity and respect**.

- **Twisted Tolerance:** “I want to do and believe anything I want and I want you to agree that it’s good.”

## **Jesus’ Credentials:**

- Fulfillment of OT Prophecies (300 +)
- His Character
- His Miracles
- God's Endorsement
- His Resurrection

*“People of Israel, listen! **God publicly endorsed Jesus** the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through Him, as you well know.” Acts 2:22 (NLT)*

## **WARNING!!!**

*“For **false messiahs and false prophets** will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones.” Matthew 24:24 (NLT)*

### **III. Christians are arrogant and narrowminded to claim Jesus is the only way to God.**

- **The Bible Teaches:** It's not arrogant to act upon **THE EVIDENCE**.

*“...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:10-11 (NLT)*

*“...And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, **always be ready to explain it**. But do this in a **gentle and respectful** way....” 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)*

*“Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread.” Charles Spurgeon*

# Keep the conversation going...

1. Have you ever encountered any of the “Three Big Myths” about Jesus that Pastor Jim talked about? Which one have you seen to be the most prevalent and why do you think that is?
2. Have you ever struggled with Jesus’ statement: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*? Talk more about that.
3. Pastor Jim used several stories to explain why this statement by Jesus is not arrogant. Did the “Jaundice Story” or the “2 Country Clubs Story” help you? Can you think of other analogies that might help explain Jesus’ statement for someone who is struggling with it?
4. Read and discuss this quote from CS Lewis:

*“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus]: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the **one thing we must not say**. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would **not be a great moral teacher**. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a **fool**, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a **demon** or you can fall at His feet and call Him **Lord and God**, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. **He has not left that open to us**. He did not intend to... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however **strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem**, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.”*

*(Mere Christianity, pgs 55-56)*