

Is Jesus the only Way?

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Introduction

John 14.6, which claims that Jesus is the only Way to the Father, is one of the most well known and most notorious verses in the Bible!

- Many postmodern sceptics consider all exclusive beliefs to be intolerant or even arrogant.



John 14.1-7

¹"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going."

John 14.1-7

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- Read Keller (2008:xvii-xix): '...you must doubt your doubts.'

Jesus' exclusive claims

Jesus said: I AM

- the way
- the truth
- the life

NO ONE comes to the Father EXCEPT through Me.

Exclusive Truth

Is it intolerant or arrogant to lay claim to exclusive truth?

- Major religions claim to have 'irreconcilable differences' Keller (2008:3-4).
- Should religion therefore be oppressed?

Exclusive Truth

“The 20th century gave rise to one of the greatest and most distressing paradoxes in human history: that the greatest intolerance and violence of that century were practised by those who believed that religion caused intolerance and violence.”

– Alister McGrath

- This ‘cure’ is worse than the ‘disease’!

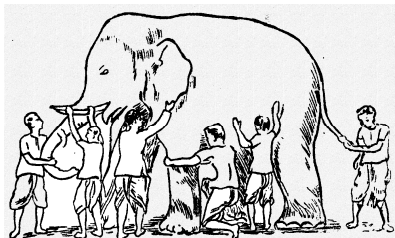
Exclusive Truth

Acts 4.12: And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

“Ironically, the insistence that doctrines do not matter is really a doctrine itself. It holds a specific view of God, which is touted as superior and more enlightened than the beliefs of most major religions. So the proponents of this view do the very thing they forbid in others.”

Exclusive Truth

- “Each religion sees part of spiritual truth, so it's arrogant to claim yours has exclusive truth.”



Exclusive Truth

- “Religious belief is too culturally conditioned to be exclusive truth.”
- The argument that major religions are bound to their places of origin are true for all except Christianity.
- Relativists often say: ‘If you were born in Morocco you’d be a Muslim, not a Christian,’ but this ‘relativity relativizes itself.’ - Berger

Exclusive Truth

- Conclusion (Keller 2008:12-13)
- By it’s very nature, truth is exclusive, e.g. guess how many toffees are in the raffle jar...



Exclusive Life

- Who qualifies as Saviour?
- Only a sinless saviour could pay for the sins of others:
- Ex 3.14: God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
- Only a resurrected saviour could raise others to life.
- Only Someone who was who Jesus claimed to be could do what Jesus claimed to do!**

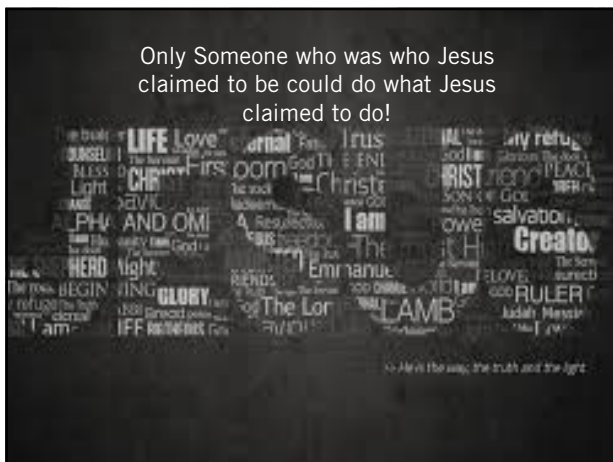
Exclusive Way

Jesus doesn't only teach the way or show the way, He is the way!

- We need to put on Christ like we would put on a parachute before jumping out of a falling aeroplane.
- E.g. man walking across the Niagara Falls with a wheelbarrow.



Only Someone who was who Jesus claimed to be could do what Jesus claimed to do!



Conclusion