

The Uniqueness of Christianity

“With the principle of equal toleration has come the idea that no religion has exclusive claims to truth” – R.C. Sproul, 1978

5 Dangerous Beliefs:

1. “As long as one is sincere in one’s beliefs...”

“There is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death” (Prov 14:2)

2. “Truth is personal and determined by one’s beliefs.”

“I am the truth” (Jesus, Judges 14:6)

3. Anything narrow or exclusive (not open-minded) must be wrong.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it” (Jesus, Matt 7:15)

4. “All religions are basically the same.”

Buddhism – no god, 4 noble truths, 8 fold path

Hinduism – god Brahman, Law of Karma, reincarnation

Islam – one god Allah, 5 pillars

Judaism – 13 principles of faith

Christianity – one God existing in three persons, salvation by grace through faith in the sacrificial (atonement) substitutionary death of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

5. “All roads lead to God.”

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (Jesus, Jn 14:6)

Buddhism claims the way to the divine is by embracing the 4 noble truths and by travelling the 8 fold path.

Hinduism claims the way to the divine is through multiple reincarnations.

Islam claims the way to the divine is by having your good deeds (jihad is good) outweigh your bad at judgment. Good deeds are copying Muhammad’s life.

Judaism claims the way to the divine is by the Law.

The Problem of a Narrow-Minded God

Code for: God hasn’t done enough.

- Eden
- Exodus
- Evangelists
- Emmanuel
- One requirement: Believe in the LORD
- Evangelize the world

Question: How is Christianity Unique?

Answer: Our religious leader – “I am the way and the truth and the life...”

1. In the person of Jesus, we meet God incarnate

The truth – the revelation of God (Jn 1: 14, 18; 10:25, 30; 14:9-11; Heb 1: 1-2)

1. In the matter of salvation, it is by grace alone and not of human effort (Eph 6:7; 2:8-9)

The way – atonement for sins

1. In the matter of destiny, the prize is Christ, the future is eternal life with God (1 Pet 1:3-12; Phil 3:8-11)

Anyone can get to God the Father, but only by coming to Jesus, God the Son (cf. Psm 2:12)

“Why does Jesus say He’s the only way? ... no one else is coming for you. There is no other God who loves you and passionately pursues you ad long to forgive you of your win and heal you from your brokenness” (Erwin McManus, 2013)