

### **Religious Pluralism**

“The acceptance of all religions as equally valid.”

*A worldview that stands on the premise that one religion is not the sole exclusive source of values, truths and supreme deity.*

*Wikipedia*

### **Religious Exclusivism**

The belief that only one particular religion is true.

*In its most extreme form, religious exclusivism teaches that only the members of one religion or sect will reach heaven, while others will be doomed to eternal damnation.*

*Wikipedia*

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

John 14:6 ESV

"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."

Acts 4:12 ESV

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 2:5 ESV

## **Thinking Logically Through Religious Pluralism**

*Responding to the Question: Do All Roads Lead to God?*

### **#1 World Religions are DIFFERENT**

*“The paths are different”*

#### **View of God**

*Comparison of the World Religion's*

**Christianity – PERSONAL GOD (close)**

**Islam – IMPERSONAL GOD**

**Hinduism – NON-PERSONAL (eternal source)**

**Buddhism – NON-PERSONAL (diffused)**

**Judaism – PERSONAL GOD (non-close)**

“Careful examination of the basic tenets of the various religious traditions demonstrates that, far from teaching the same thing, the major religions have radically different perspectives...”

Harold A Netland  
Dissonant Voices, 37

*Notes*

## #2 World Religions have different **ETHICS**

*“Attempting to melt all the paths into a single road is pointless.”*

“Attempts to reduce all religions to their lowest common denominator usually succeed only in distorting them.”

Kenneth Richard Samples  
Without a Doubt, 164

“Similar ethical values shared by religions such as Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism cannot be separated from the distinctive doctrines that define these particular religions. This distinctiveness is especially true for historic Christianity, which is primarily a system of ethics. Christian ethics flow from a redemptive relationship with God through the person of Jesus Christ. Therefore the ethical teachings of Jesus in the New Testament cannot be separated from the unique Christian doctrines that emerge directly from the great redemptive events of Jesus’ life (incarnation, atonement, and resurrection). In other words, the truth of Christian ethics is inextricably tied to the truth of Christian theology.”

Kenneth Richard Samples  
Without a Doubt, 164

*Notes*

Message Series Program Notes: ANSWERS  
Part 3 Don't All Religions Lead to God?  
Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

### #3 World Religions are **LOGICALLY IRRECONCILABLE**

*"Different paths on the same mountain do not make sense"*

"Anyone who would become a pluralist must first abandon the very principle of logic that makes all significant thought, action, and communication possible."

Ronald H. Nash  
Is Jesus the Only Savior, 55

*Notes*

## Thinking Logically Through the Claims of Christ

*"Why I Believe Jesus is the Only Road that Leads to God"*

### Exhibit 1: **THE DISCIPLES DIED FOR THEIR BELIEFS**

"Men may live for a lie, but to think that thousands will die for that same lie requires a stretch of the imagination...Hypocrites do not become martyrs."

Barry Leventhal  
Why I Am A Christian, 231

### Exhibit 2: **THE CONVERSION OF SKEPTICS**

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"...formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief," 1 Timothy 1:13 ESV

"It is reasonable to believe that the evidence which convince such a man of the out-and-out wrongness of his former course, and led him so decisively to abandon previously cherished beliefs for a movement which he had so vigorously opposed, must have been a singularly impressive quality. The conversion of Paul has for long been regarded as a weighty evidence for the truth of Christianity."

F.F. Bruce  
The New Testament Document,  
Are they Reliable? 77

### **Exhibit 3: CHANGES TO SOCIAL STRUCTURES**

### **Exhibit 4: YOUR LIFE WAS TRANSFORMED**

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you..." 1 Peter 3:15 ESV

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