



Examining Evangelism – Part 6

Where We've Been

Week 1: Intro: Evaluating Evangelism Methods

Week 2: Examining Our Own Assumptions About Evangelism

Week 3: Morgan – Words & Deeds – Evangelism in Acts

Week 4: Jeremy – True Discipleship as Evangelism

Week 5: Summary of What We Have Discovered
Evangelism As A Speaking Activity (Witnessing)
Becoming Obedient Believers

Tonight: The Exclusive Claim of Christ

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

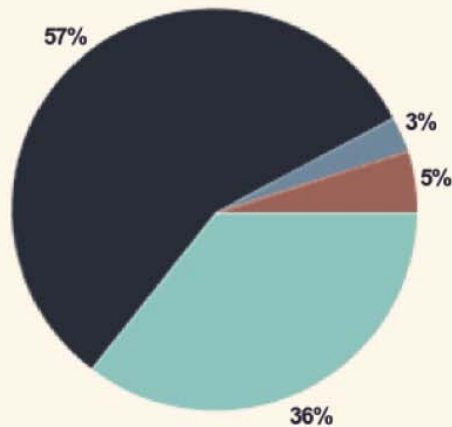


John 14:6

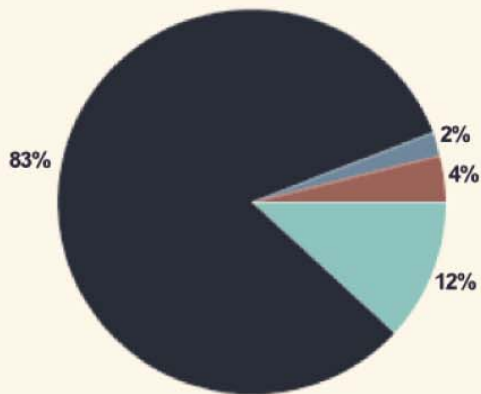
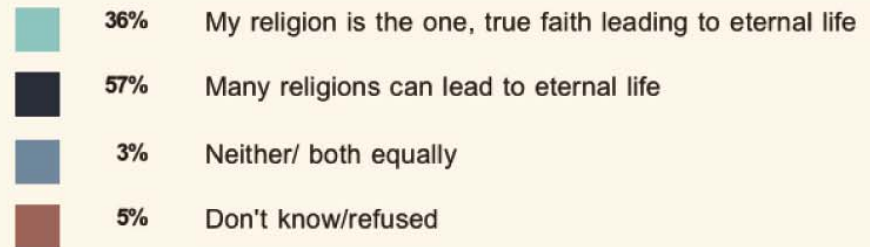
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No one comes to the Father
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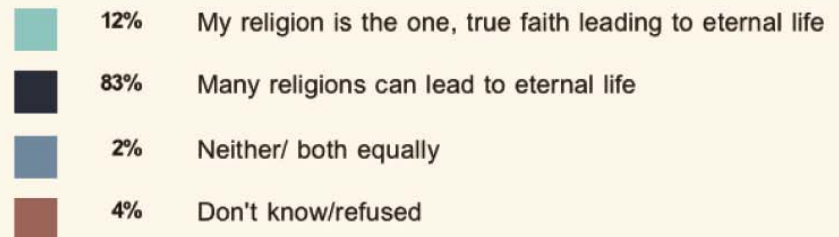
Beliefs About Exclusivity



Views of One's Religion as the One True Faith Among Evangelical Churches



Views of One's Religion as the One True Faith Among Mainline Churches



Beliefs About Exclusivity

“Many religions can lead to eternal life”

By Religious Tradition:

Jehovah's Witnesses	16%
Mormons	39%
Muslims	56%
Evangelical Christians	57%
Historically Black Churches	59%
Orthodox Christians	72%
Catholics	79%
Jews	82%
Mainline Churches	83%
Other Christians	83%
Buddhists	86%
Hindus	89%
Other Faiths	85%

Beliefs About Exclusivity

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Beliefs About Exclusivity

“Many religions can lead to eternal life”

By Religious Tradition:

Jehovah's Witnesses	16%
Evangelicals Attending Church Weekly	37%
Mormons	39%
Muslims	56%
Evangelical Christians	57%
Historically Black Churches	59%
Orthodox Christians	72%
Catholics	79%
Jews	82%
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Beliefs About Exclusivity

“Only people whose sins are forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ go to heaven.”

By Religious Tradition:

Black Protestants	65%
Conservative Protestant / Evangelicals	64%
Mainline Protestants	33%
Roman Catholics	29%
Mormons	36%
Non-Religious	25%

John 14:1-7

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well.

From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14:1-7

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. . . .

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.”

John 1:1, 14, 18

~~If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well.~~

From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14:1-7

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Colossians 1:15-20

John 14:1-7

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant..

Colossians 1:21-23

From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

The Way . . .

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

Jesus shows us the Way that God acts in the world – His mission,
His priorities, and the Way that we should love.

Way of Love:

⇒ Bring the Gospel to the People Lives Now:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." - Luke 4:18-19



The Way . . .

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Jesus shows us the Way that God acts in the world – His mission,
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Way of Love:

- ⇒ Bring the Gospel to the People Lives Now
- ⇒ Seek and Save the Lost

After dining with Zacchaeus: "Today salvation has come to
this house, because this man too, is a son of Abraham. For
the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost."
(Luke 19:9-10)

The Way . . .

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
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Jesus shows us the Way that God acts in the world – His mission,
His priorities, and the Way that we should love.

Way of Love:

- ⇒ Bring the Gospel to the People Lives Now
- ⇒ Seek and Save the Lost
- ⇒ Serve Others in Humility

"[Jesus], who being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant. . . . He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross."
(Philippians 2:6-8)

... The Truth ...

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

Knowing the Truth involves knowing Jesus in right relationship with Him. Along with the Father and Spirit, Jesus is himself God.

⇒ Jesus is the *logos* of God, the living and active Word

"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people." (John 1:3)



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⇒ Jesus is the *logos* of God, the living and active Word

⇒ Truth testifies about / points to Jesus

"When the Advocate comes," says Jesus "whom I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father – he will testify about me." (Luke 15:26)



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Knowing the Truth involves knowing Jesus in right relationship with Him. Along with the Father and Spirit, Jesus is himself God.

- ⇒ Jesus is the *logos* of God, the living and active Word
- ⇒ Truth testifies about / points to Jesus
- ⇒ There is nothing relative about the Truth

"Some things are true for everyone regardless of their social location, beliefs or particular opinions. Not everything that is claimed to be true is actually true. Some beliefs and convictions, no matter how sincerely held, are false and untrue and must be opposed. We must assert this in humility – because the Christian message is not "our" truth, but is a divine gift to us, as it is a gift to the world."

... And The Life

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

Jesus provides us a path to the Life for which we were created:

- ⇒ God lives a life of love between Father, Son and Spirit, eternally and before the creation of time.
- ⇒ God does not create us so that He has someone to love
- ⇒ Rather, life is God's grace poured out on us, inviting us into the life of love He shares within His Triune nature.
- ⇒ Jesus brings the invitation to that life in intimate relationship with God.
- ⇒ As the church, we should be a foretaste of life lived with God as He intended it. We cannot simply invite others to exchange their beliefs for ours. We must invite them to a life lived here and now, culminating in the New Creation.



Come to the Father

“No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- Eternal Life?
- Living in the Way, Truth and Life of Christ
- Both A & B





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INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

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Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

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