

1 **Is Jesus the Only Way?**

Sue Bohlin

2 3 **3 Options**

- Christianity is not narrow
 - Jesus is just one of many ways to God
- Christianity is narrow and wrong
 - It's narrow-minded and arrogant to claim Jesus is the only way
- Christianity is narrow and right
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4 **1. "Christianity is not narrow"**

- Broad, accepting religion. Sincere seekers go to heaven.
- Only one of many valid religions
- Technical distinctions, but same in essence
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5 **The 6 Blind Hindus and the Elephant**

- Wall
- Snake
- Spear
- Tree trunk
- Fan
- Rope
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6 **Jesus' Claims**

- To be the only way to God the Father
 - "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me." *John 14:6*
- To be Yahweh, the I AM of the Old Testament
 - "Before Abraham was, I AM." *John 8:58*
- Attributes of God

Eternal	Accepted worship
Omnipresent	Forgave sins
Sinless	Judge of all men

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7 **Understood by others**

- His disciples understood His truth claims
 - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been

given among men by which we must be saved." *Acts 4:12*

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- His enemies understood His truth claims
The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God." *John 10:33*

8 2. "Christianity is narrow and wrong"

9 Millions of sincere worshippers

- Assumption: if they're sincere, they can't be wrong
- Sincerity ≠ truth
- "Sincerely wrong"

10 Jim Jones in Guyana

11 David Koresh in Waco

12 Mohammed in Arabia

13 Right for you, not for everyone

- Assumption: truth is determined by one's beliefs or lack of beliefs
- Confusing subjective personal preference with objective truth
- Your belief doesn't determine whether something is objectively true
 - Earth is flat
 - Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny
 - If you believe in heaven you will go there
 - If you don't believe, you will cease to exist at death
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14 Christianity is narrow and false

- Assumption: anything this narrow and exclusive has to be wrong
- New tolerance: every belief and value is equally valid (except for intolerant religions like Christianity)
- Narrow and wrong OR narrow and true
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15 "All religions are basically the same"

Who is God?

- Christianity: One God, three Persons (Trinity)
- Judaism, Islam: One God (unitarian)
- Hinduism:
 - (Philosophical) Monism: all is one
 - (Philosophical) Pantheism: all is impersonal god
 - (Popular) Polytheism: many gods
- Buddhism
 - Polytheism
 - Pantheism

- Atheism

16 **What happens after death?**

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- Christianity: heaven with Jesus or hell apart from Him
- Judaism: heaven or extinction
- Islam: eternity of sensual pleasures or hell
- Hinduism: nirvana, one with Brahman
- Buddhism: nirvana, total nothingness

17 **How are we saved?**

- Christianity: trusting in Christ alone
- Judaism: living a moral life
- Islam: earned by following the 6 articles of faith and the 5 pillars of Islam
- Hinduism: reincarnation
- Buddhism: reincarnation

18

- They disagree in the most important questions!
- The Law of Non-Contradiction
 - Two opposite statements cannot both be true in the same sense and at the same time
- A ≠ Non-A

19

Since the major religions contradict each other, either

- 1) one is right and the rest are wrong,
- or
- 2) they are all wrong.

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"We believe that all religions are basically the same, at least the one we read was. They all believe in love and goodness. They only differ on matters of creation sin heaven hell God and salvation."

--Steve Turner

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21 **The question is not,
"Is Christianity narrow," but
"Is Christianity true?"**

22 **Christianity is narrow and true**

- Jesus claimed to be God, and the only way to the Father.
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- Liar?

- Lunatic?
- LORD!

23 **C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity***

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "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 said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

24

"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."

25 **What about those who have never heard?**

- God wants to save people far more than anyone wants to be saved
 - "God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." *1 Tim. 2:4*
 - "... not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." *2 Pet. 3:9*
- He is holy and just
 - He will not hold people accountable for something they never heard.
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26

- God's judgment is based on the amount of light that people have received
- No one is in total darkness
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- Romans 1 – The witness of creation.
 - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (*Rom. 1:20*)
- Romans 2 – The witness of the conscience
 - God has placed eternity in our hearts (*Eccl. 3:11*)
 - "because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them." (*Rom. 1:19*)
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All people know two things:

1. There is a God
2. There's something wrong with me—I am a sinner

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- Throughout the O.T. God revealed himself to nations outside Israel.
 - Melchizedek (Genesis 14)
 - Abimelech of Gerar (Genesis 20:3-7)
 - Pharaoh (Genesis 41)
 - Balaam (Numbers 22)
 - Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2,4)
 - Ninevites (Jonah)
- N.T. examples include Cornelius (Acts 10) and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8)
- Even today!

30

God's salvation extends to all people in all times

- 5 times in Revelation: "every nation and tribe and language and people"
- "Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people." –Revelation 14:6
- Not a single Old Testament believer heard the name of Jesus, but they trusted in Yahweh to be saved.

31

- God looks for our response
- "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." *Jeremiah 29:13*