

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Is Jesus the Only Way to God?

Why is This Question Being Asked?

- Is Jesus the Only Way to God? Is probably the most common question the unchurched world and even some Christians are asking
- What kind of question is this?
- This question is an:
- *Exclusivity vs. inclusivity question*
 - Exclusivity is saying a relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life with God
 - Inclusivity is saying there are other sets of beliefs that may also lead to eternal life with God
- *Pluralism question*
 - Pluralism suggests a person's own religion is not the *sole and exclusive* source of truth
 - The idea is that there are "many ways" to God
- *Aren't all religions the same? question*
 - Just because a religion has something "in common" with Christianity, does not make them *the same*
 - Other religions may have some moral views that align with Christianity, but that does not make them the same
- *I'm a good person question*
 - There are many people in the world that are good, moral honest, generous, and law abiding citizens doesn't their good works qualify them eternal life with God?
 - The thought is I can live as I choose as long I have "a resume" of good deeds
Matthew 19:16-17 (KJV) 16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

What Did Jesus Say About Himself?

You can only know the Father through the Son Matthew 11:27-28 (NLT2) 27 "My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." 28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

- In the Old Testament, *know* means more than knowledge.
- It implies an intimate relationship.
- The communion between God the Father and God the Son is the core of their relationship.
- A yoke is a heavy wooden harness that fits over the shoulders of an ox or oxen.
- It is attached to a piece of equipment the oxen are to pull.
- A person may be carrying heavy burdens

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- Jesus frees people from all these burdens
- The rest that Jesus promises is love, healing, and peace with God,
- A relationship with God changes meaningless, wearisome toil into spiritual productivity and purpose.

It's belief in Jesus, not works **John 6:28-29 (KJV) 28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**

- Many think that by doing good works they could win the approval and acceptance of God
- Jesus said we can't secure the favor of God because of works (plural)
- We'll God's favor and acceptance because of a work, one work (singular)
- The work of God is only one: believe—"believe on Him whom God hath sent"

Jesus is the only light out of spiritual darkness **John 8:12 (KJV) 12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

- The darkness can never extinguish it" means the darkness of evil never has and never will overcome God's light.
- Jesus Christ is the Creator of life, and his life brings light to humankind.
- In his light, we see ourselves as we really are (sinners in need of a Savior).
- When we follow Jesus, the true Light, we can avoid walking blindly and falling into sin.

Jesus is only One with power over life and death and the power to forgive sins **John 11:25-26 (KJV) 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

- Jesus did not say that He gives the resurrection and life to man, but He is the Resurrection and the Life.
- Jesus, of course, does give the resurrection and life to believers; but His point is not this fact.
- His point is far more important.
- Jesus declared that He is the very being and essence, the very power and energy of life.
- It means that man—in fact all of life—exists only by the will and power of Jesus.
- There is nothing existing apart from His will; therefore, if a dead person wishes to live, only Jesus can give him life.
- And if a living person does not wish to die, only Jesus can keep him from dying.
- Jesus has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins.

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- Whoever believes in Christ has a spiritual life that death cannot conquer or diminish in any way

Jesus is the only way to God **John 14:6-7 (KJV) 6** ***“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: ...”***

- Jesus is not one of many ways to God, He is the only way
- As the *way*, Jesus is our path to the Father.
- As the *truth*, he is the *reality* of all God's promises.
- As the *life*, he joins his divine life to ours, both now and eternally.
- Some people may argue that this way is too narrow.
- Instead of worrying about how limited it sounds to have only one way, we should be saying, "Thank you, God, for providing a *sure way* to get to you!"

What Did Jesus' Apostles Say About Jesus?

Peter said salvation is only through Jesus Christ **Acts 4:12 (NLT2) 12** ***There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”***

- Jesus alone has the power to save us from our sins
- Our focus should be on Jesus, whom God provided as the way to have an eternal relationship with himself.
- There is no other name or way!
- No man has the name by which God saves people

Peter said eternal life is only in Jesus **John 6:68-69 (KJV) 68** ***Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.***

- At one point in Jesus' ministry, many in the crowd were turning away from Jesus in search of another "savior"
- Jesus asked the disciples, "Do you want to leave, too?"
- Peter said to Jesus to whom shall we go? You have the words of *eternal life* and we have believed

Paul said salvation is only through sacrifice of Jesus Christ **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT2) 21** ***For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.***

- It was Jesus that carried the sins of the entire world on the cross
- *Only* Jesus could be the perfect sacrifice because He never sinned
- When we trust in Christ, we make an *exchange*: He takes our sin and makes us right with God.
- His righteousness is given to us when we are saved

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John said no one but Jesus can forgive sin 1 John 2:12 (KJV) 12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

- When you believe in Jesus Christ, God forgives sin
- God forgives our sins for Christ's sake.
- Only Jesus' blood can forgive sin

What Will You Say?

- *Whatever we have to say to people asking questions about the way to God, we will do it in love Ephesians 4:15 (KJV) 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*
 - One of the marks of a mature believer is the ability to speak the truth in love
 - There is no reason to be arrogant or boastful *Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV) 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
 - We are not saved merely for our own benefit but to serve Christ and build up the church through serving others
- There's only one way that leads to eternal life with God *Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV) 13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*
 - The narrow gate that leads to eternal life does not mean it's difficult to have eternal life, it means that there's only one way, and it's through Jesus Christ
- *We share the gospel with them Romans 10:14-15, 17 (NLT2) 14 "But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? ..."* *Romans 10:17 (NLT2) 17 So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*
 - There's only one name that saves and that name is Jesus
 - In order for people to hear about Jesus there must be preachers, teachers, missionaries and *regular believers* that will share the gospel themselves or get people to where the gospel is being preached and taught
 - Faith is awakened through the gospel and salvation comes through faith
 - *The way to God is not "a path", but a Person John 14:6 (KJV) 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*