

MidWeek - Problems with Christianity

Week 8 - The Problem of Exclusivity

Intro Matters

- Define Terms: What is the problem of exclusivity?
- Problem Statement:
 - Christianity claims there is only one way to God
 - There cannot be only one way to God. (Why not?)
 - Therefore, Christianity is **false**.

Worldview Responses

- Reminder: Worldview colors perspective!
 - “Does a fish know it’s wet? Famous question by Aristotle, but one author writes “regardless of its origin there is perhaps no better way to illustrate the powerful effect of one’s worldview.”¹
- Atheism [Nothing at the center]
 - There can’t be only one true religion because...
 - To claim only one way is **arrogant**.
 - Religion is **cultural**.
 - Exclusive religion is **harmful**.
 - Fails - This is an **exclusive** claim to truth.
- Selfism [self at the center]
 - All religions are **true** for them.
 - Blind men and the elephant illustration.
 - **Relativism**: Christianity is your truth, not my truth.
 - Fails - This is an **exclusive** claim to truth.

¹Voddie Baucham, What Must He Be? 88.

- Theism [God at the center]
 - Jesus **claimed** to be the exclusive way to God.
 - John 14:6
 - Ephesians 2:18
 - 1 John 5:20
 - Acts 4:12
 - 1 Timothy 2:5

How to Respond

- All truth is exclusive by **definition**.
- **Jesus** understood the Christian faith to be exclusive.
- All religions are **mutually** exclusive.
- Disagreement doesn't mean **disrespect**.
- Religion can't bring **reconciliation** with God.
- Christianity is actually **inclusive**.
- If it's true, it's not exclusive it's the ultimate **compassion** to share the gospel.

Big Idea: The heart of Christianity is exclusively Jesus.

4 Exclusive Facts About Jesus:

- Jesus died by **crucifixion**.
- Jesus **appeared** to his disciples.
- Jesus converted his **enemies**, for example Saul/Paul;
- Jesus rose from the **dead**.

Schedule:

Week 1 6/29/22: Introduction – What is a Worldview

Week 2 7/6/22: Problem of Truth

Week 3: 7/13/22: Problem of Scripture

Week 4: 7/20/22: Problem of Jesus

Week 5: 7/27/22: Problem of Evil

Week 6: 8/3/22: Problem of Science

Week 7: 8/10/22: Problem of Christians

Week 8: 8/17/22: Problem of Exclusivity

8/24/22: VACATION WEEK - NO MIDWEEK

Week 9: 8/31/22: Problem of Sexuality

Week 10: 9/7/22: Summary