

WHICH GOD IS IT?

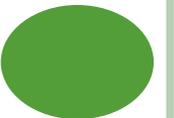
RELIGIOUS EXCLUSIVITY

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

CAN ALL RELIGIONS BE TRUE?

- All religions cannot be true because all religions contradict each other.
 - Basis of relativism:
 - So many people believe so many different things
 - Conclusion of relativism:
 - So many things are true at the same time
- Basis of relativism \neq Conclusion of relativism
- The fact that people believe multiple things **does not** make those multiple things true



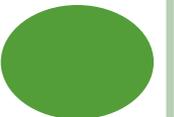
CAN ALL RELIGIONS BE TRUE?

- Law of Non-Contradiction:
 - A statement about something cannot be both **true** and **not true** at the **same time** in the **same context**.
- If two statements contradict each other, there are two possible solutions:
 - a. Only one of them is true
 - b. Both of them are false



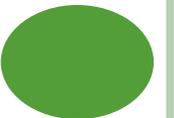
$$2 + 2 = \overset{-3}{?} 4$$
$$\underset{-5}{}$$

- Truth, by its definition, must be exclusive.



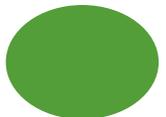
CAN ALL RELIGIONS BE TRUE?

- Analyzing some of the major world religions:
 - The only unpardonable sin in Islam is associating partners with Allah (Koran Ch.4, v. 16; Ch 5, v.72), yet that is the founding principle of Christianity.
 - Hinduism believes everything is god; Islam and Christianity assert there is only one God; atheists and Buddhists believe there is no god.
 - Buddhism was founded as a rejection of two fundamental assertions of Hinduism (the Vedas – their scripture, and the caste system).
- All religions conflict at their core set of beliefs so they **CANNOT** all be right.
- It's possible that all of them are wrong, but it is **NOT** possible that all of them are right. Each one rejects the other.



DOCTRINE OF MAJOR WORLD VIEWS

	Hinduism	Buddhism	Islam
Method of salvation	Yoga, meditation	Follow the Eight Fold Path to end suffering	Follow the Five Pillars of faith
Afterlife	Deny reality, improve karma to reach a state where reincarnation stops (nirvana)	Eliminate desire to achieve deliverance (moksha) but unsure what eternal life brings because it is temporary	Only the most diligent achieve eternal life
Leader/ Revelation	None	Buddha	Mohammed
Religious text	Smriti & Shruti	No main text; passed by word of mouth of Buddha's teachings (sutras) and notebook for monks (Vinaya)	Quran



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

- Hindu festival, Thaipusam, celebrated in Malaysia



Photos from www.traveller.com.au

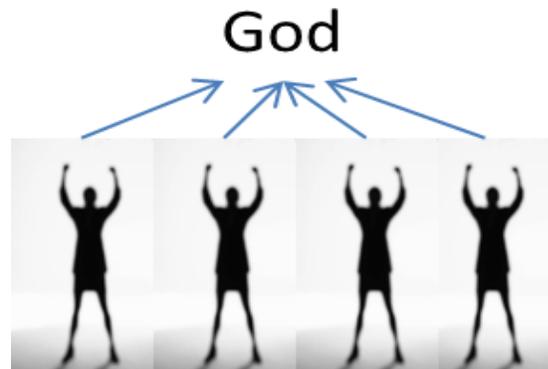
- Buddhist: generate positive motivation and positive state of mind through chants and recitations
- Muslim: must cleanse themselves with either water or sand, bow facing Mecca, and forehead on the ground

WHAT SETS CHRISTIANITY APART?

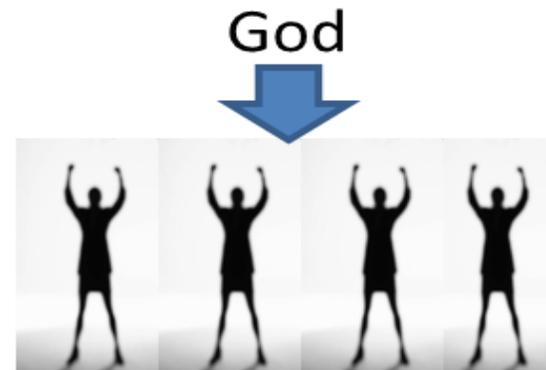
	Hinduism	Buddhism	Islam	Christianity
Method of salvation	Yoga, meditation	Follow the Eight Fold Path to end suffering	Follow the Five Pillars	Jesus
Afterlife	Deny reality, improve karma to reach a state where reincarnation stops (nirvana)	Eliminate desire to achieve deliverance (moksha) but unsure what eternal life brings because it is temporary	Only the most diligent achieve eternal life	Eternal Life in heaven for all who “call upon the name of the Lord”; assurance of salvation
Leader/ Revelation	None	Buddha	Mohammed	Jesus
Religious text	Smriti & Shruti	No main text; passed by word of mouth of sutras and Vinaya	Quran	Bible

WHAT SOLVES THE ISSUE OF SIN?

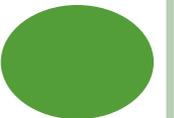
- What is it that God demands?
- The God behind the Moral Law is Good and Just, Holy and Righteous
 - In order to remain good, He must punish evil
- Man is sinful and unrighteous because we break those rules
 - To be perfectly good, God must punish our sins.
- How do we reconcile ourselves to God's holiness and judgment of our sin?



Other religions



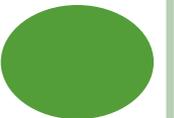
Christianity



WHAT SOLVES THE ISSUE OF SIN?

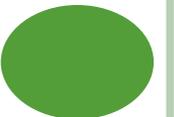
“Moses could mediate on the law; Muhammad could brandish a sword; Buddha could give personal counsel; Confucius could offer wise sayings; but none of these men was qualified to offer **an atonement for the sins of the world...** Christ alone is worthy of unlimited devotion and service.”

— R.C. Sproul



THE TRUTH OF CHRISTIANITY EXCLUDES

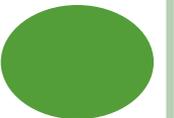
- Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” That is a truth claim. It tells us that:
 - Truth is absolute.
 - Truth is knowable.
 - Anything that contradicts that statement must be false.
- Believing there are other ways to Heaven cheapens the sacrifice Jesus made to provide forgiveness for us
- Any other path to eternal salvation **CANNOT** be true because it asserts something contrary to the divinity of Jesus



THE TRUTH OF CHRISTIANITY EXCLUDES

What about those who have never heard of Jesus?

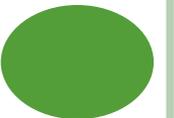
- They will still be lost and condemned because they do not have saving faith in Jesus.
- If we allow their salvation as an exception,
 1. We are calling Jesus a liar.
 - He said that no one gets to the Father but through Him – not even through ignorance
 2. We should stop witnessing.
 - If not knowing about Jesus results in salvation, but knowing Him and rejecting Him does not, then we should stop spreading His name.



THE TRUTH OF CHRISTIANITY EXCLUDES

“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

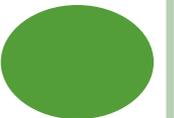
— Luke 12:47-48



THE TRUTH OF CHRISTIANITY EXCLUDES

God knows the heart and will provide a way for those who seek him, either through:

- Missionary
- Finding a Bible
- Hearing a radio broadcast
- Visions and dreams



THE TRUTH OF CHRISTIANITY EXCLUDES

Acts 19:1-9

“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?”

So they said, “Into John’s baptism.”

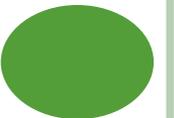
Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all.”

THE TRUTH OF CHRISTIANITY EXCLUDES

God sent:

- Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch
 - While he was reading Isaiah
- Peter to Cornelius
 - Because he was a devout man who feared God
- Priscilla and Aquila to Apollos
 - Because he was fervent in spirit
- Paul to the twelve men at Ephesus
 - Because they were disciples



ARE ALL RELIGIONS THE SAME?

- All religions cannot be right because all religions contradict each other. Therefore, we must find which one is TRUTH.
 - All other world religions involve man's effort based on man's standard. But what is God's standard?
- Because the Moral Law is interested in good behavior,
 - the Moral Law Giver is good and desires for us to be good,
 - to remain good, He must punish evil.
- What religion can correct our evil and make us righteous?
 - Christianity is the solution provided by God based on God's standard.
 - Only Christianity provides a means to reconcile our sinful nature with God's justice and holiness.
- If you have become a Christian, you cannot accept that any other way to Heaven can be true. You must believe Jesus' truth claim:
 - Jesus is the way, the truth and the life; and no one comes to the Father except through Him.

