



**Explore God:
Is Christianity too narrow?**

October 8, 2023

Why does Christianity's exclusive claim grate on modern ears?

a. It seems _____ to promote just _____ path.

- *James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

b. It seems _____ to be _____.

- *Isaiah 45:20 “Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save.*

21 Declare what is to be, present it— let them take counsel together.

Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past?

Was it not I, the LORD?

And there is no God apart from me,

a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me.

22 “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth;

for I am God, and there is no other.

c. It means I have to _____ I need to _____.

- *Romans 8:6-7 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

John 14:1-6 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 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. 3 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. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

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

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

1. Jesus is THE _____ ...not one of _____ ways.

- *Matthew 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*
- *Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*
- *Matthew 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

2. Jesus is THE _____ ...amidst _____ religion.

- *John 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*
- *John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

3. Jesus is THE _____ ...the only one to overcome _____!

- *John 11:21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”*

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

- *1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.*
- *20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

4. How do I answer this question?

- a. What has led you to think that Christianity is too narrow?
- b. I am curious if you have looked much at the other paths to God and compared with Christianity?
- c. As I've looked at different faiths, I've discovered, Jesus is the only key that fits to the door of heaven.

NEXT WEEK: Explore God! – “Is Jesus really God?”

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MY PERSONAL NOTES

SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life

The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:

The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:

The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:

My prayers today are:

Someone I would like to bless with today's message: