

**Is Jesus The Only Way
To God and How Do
I Witness To Someone
Involved In A Cult?**

Question #3: Why Should I Believe Jesus Is The Only Way To God? Isn't Sincerity In What One Believes Good Enough?

A. What is your source of authority for answering the question?

- 1) _____ - I think
- 2) _____ - I feel (_____ : this is what everyone else is doing)
- 3) _____ - We've always done
- 4) _____ - God's Word

B. What are the options?

Four Views of Salvation and the Relationship of Christianity to Other World Religions/Cults

Universalism: All people will eventually be saved; God (or gods) is too loving to send anyone to hell for eternity.

Pluralism: All the world religions are basically the same with their particular understanding being true for them; all people will be saved through their own faith. (Pluralism is the avenue of universalism).

Inclusivism: Christ's work of salvation is essential and universal in application and it can apply even to those who have never trusted Christ personally and are not aware of its benefits (e.g. the Roman Catholic Karl Rahner's "anonymous Christianity").

Exclusivism: Christianity is the only way of salvation. Other world religions may have partial religious insights (all truth is God's truth), but only Christianity is sufficient for salvation. This is what Jesus said (John 14:6). This is what Peter said. (Acts 4:12). This is what Paul said (1 Tim. 2:5). Other religions should be seen as either having partial insights of which Christianity is the fulfillment, and/or as demonic and totally in darkness.

C. Are not all religions basically the same?

No. There are at least...

Six Points of Divergence between Christianity and Other World Religions

- The Christian God is personal, He is Father! Most religions have a more impersonal view of God (Brahman, Buddhism, Allah).
- Christ is Savior; other religions merely offer great teachers (Muhammad, gurus, bodhisattvas).

- All persons are of great value in a Christian anthropology as image bearers of God; other religions place much less value on personhood and the individual.
- A Christian philosophy of history has purpose and is linear; the Eastern religions have a cyclical view of history.
- Christian salvation is by grace through faith in Christ; virtually all other religions offer salvation by works (Torah, Five Pillars, Yoga, Noble Eightfold Path).
- Christian eschatology is based upon the hope of bodily resurrection; other religions offer immortality of the soul, reincarnation or nirvana. The body is basically deemed evil or “inferior” in those systems.

*Remember: “It is no sin to doubt some things, but it may be fatal to believe everything.”
--A.W. Tozer

Recommended Sources for Additional Study:

Nash, Ronald. *Is Jesus the Only Savior?* Zondervan, 1994.
Packer, J. I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God.* IVP, 1961,
Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Faith.* Zondervan, 2000.

Question #4: How Can I Spot A Cult And Witness Effectively To A Friend Trapped In A False Teaching?

A. What is a cult?

Definition: A cult is a group that claims identity (or a relationship) with a major religion but denies basic teachings that are central and essential to that tradition.

B. What is the math of the cults?

1. (+) They add an extra-biblical source of authority either by prophet(ess) or pen.
2. (-) They subtract from the person and work of Jesus Christ.

They deny His deity.

They deny as sufficient what He did on the cross.

3. (x) They multiply the requirements of salvation.
4. (÷) They divide our allegiance from God to another.

C. How do I witness to someone involved in a cult?

1. Principles to remember

- a. Always be kind.
- b. Be a good listener.
- c. Pray for them.
- d. Love them.

2. Procedure to follow

- a. Give them 15 minutes uninterrupted asking them to tell you what they believe you must do to be saved and go to heaven when you die.
- b. Require that they give you 15 minutes uninterrupted so that you can tell them how you believe a person can be saved and go to heaven when they die.
- c. Pray with them, and pray evangelistically sharing clearly and completely the gospel in your prayer.
- d. Invite them (and their friends) back to do it again!

Recommended Sources for Additional Study:

- Geisler, Norman and Ron Rhodes, *Correcting the Cults*. Baker, 1997.
Hoekema, Anthony. *The Four Major Cults*. Eerdmans, 1963.
Martin, Walter, and Hank Hanegraff. *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Rev. and updated.
Bethany, 1997.