



### #3 How can one religion be right and all the others be wrong?

There can't be just one true religion!  
Doesn't the exclusivity of Christianity (and all religions for that matter) create division and cause problems?

#### Understand the Differences and the Similarities

1. All religions are not the same. The major religions differ in key areas:  
Who is God? (What is His nature and character?)  
Who is man and what is his destiny? (Who are we and where are we going?)  
How does man achieve his destiny? (How do we get where we are going?)
2. Each of these religions claims to be the right way.  
Each of these religions claims to be the only way to "God" (however it defines God).  
Each of these religions claims to be the only way to "heaven" (however it defines heaven).
3. The problem is that these religions (philosophies or worldviews) make contradictory truth claims.  
Contradictory claims can't both be right. Either one is right and the other is wrong, or both are wrong. But they can't both be right!
4. Jesus believed that truth was knowable.  
A person could know what was really true. (John 8:31-32)

#### Understand Postmodern Thought

1. In postmodern Western thought, absolute truth is not possible.
  - A. There is no absolute right or wrong, no truth or error.
  - B. Meaning lies with the interpreter, not the communicator.
  - C. No one can be objective in his assessment of anything. We can't tell what is true or right, so there is no truth or right, error or wrong.
  - D. Perception is reality, meaning my perception is my reality.
2. They say, "*Religious belief is too culturally conditioned to be 'truth.'*"  
We respond:
  - A. We can still evaluate the rightness or wrongness of our culture's beliefs or the beliefs of other cultures.
  - B. The relativist cannot exempt himself for his own claim.
  - C. The postmodern assertion that "there is no absolute, objective truth" is contradictory and self-defeating.  
It is a statement put forward as being objectively true and universally applicable—something that it argues is impossible.

3. They say, "*Geography is the most important predictor of religion.*"  
We respond:
  - A. That does not prove nor even suggest that the belief is false.
  - B. Postmodernists don't live everyday life and relationships consistent with their theory.

#### Understand Worldview

1. Define religion:
  - A. Belief in God?
  - B. Belief in the supernatural?
2. Beliefs form a worldview, a meta-narrative, a religion.
3. Religion is as integral to a person's worldview as the absence of religion.

#### Understand Exclusivity and Divisiveness

1. The differences can be destructive.
2. The differences can't all be harmonized.
3. The differences can be understood and evaluated.
4. The differences of NT Christianity bring the only real hope to the world.
  - A. NT Christianity views all people as made in God's image, as possessing inherent dignity and value.
  - B. Followers of Jesus don't view themselves as superior to non-believers.
  - C. Which religion or worldview will lead its adherents to be the most loving and receptive to those with whom they differ? NT Christianity.
  - D. NT Christians are the radically kind, radically generous, radically compassionate, radically forgiving people who live out Jesus' character in their everyday lives and relationships.
  - E. NT Christians are peaceable with those of other worldviews and religions.
  - F. NT Christianity teaches sacrificial service, generosity and peace making. Jesus died for his enemies, praying for their forgiveness.
  - G. First century Christianity created the most inclusive community the world ever saw. Christianity mixed races, economic classes, genders, and religions. The Christian's model is a God-man loving and serving people who did not love Him, then dying for people who did not agree with Him.

#### Message

NT Christianity is the one right religion  
because truth corresponds to reality.

#### Action Points:

- Only in NT Christianity is salvation by grace through faith, not earned.
- We NT Christians should be the most loving, gracious, forgiving, welcoming, generous, sexually pure, self-sacrificing people on earth.