



**#4 Is Jesus the only way to God and heaven?**  
How could you possibly defend such an assertion?  
What about other religions?

**Monotheism is original.**

1. Scripture says that before the flood there was no such thing as idolatry at all.
2. Ugaritic texts also mention, a personal God named "El", and use the phrase "El Elyon" for *God Most High*, just as Melchizedek did in Genesis 14:18-20.
3. In China prior to Buddhism, and prior to Confucianism and Taoism, they worshipped a number of idols. However prior to that, they worshipped one Supreme God, whom they called "Shang-Di". The earliest written references to Shang-Di in China are dated at 2600 B.C., which are about 400-500 years prior to Abraham!
4. Primitive monotheism is the position that a monotheistic religion degenerated into non-monotheistic religions.

**Christianity is unique among religions.**

1. The Christian God deliberately planned and created the world and man in it exercising dominion over the creation in God's place. It was all very good.
2. The Christian God entered into humanity and human suffering.
3. No other religion has a God who entered into and personally experienced suffering and evil.
4. Only one major world religion claims that God substituted Himself for us by putting Himself in our place and dying for us: NT Christianity.
5. In all the religions of the world people attain salvation through moral effort.
6. In the Gospel people receive salvation through God's grace.
7. Only one major world religion claims that its founder rose bodily from the dead.
8. Only one major world religion claims that the final end or purpose of my salvation is the restoration of all of creation, putting the whole world right, renewing and restoring creation, not to escaping it as all other religions teach.

**Jesus is unique among religious leaders and founders.**

1. Jesus fulfilled OT prophecies, claimed to be God, claimed to be the only road of access to God the Father, predicted his own death and resurrection and rose from the dead.
2. Mohammed was a 7<sup>th</sup> century political/military leader who recognized power of religion to unify the independent cities and people groups of the Arab world. Mohammed taught salvation by works.

3. Hinduism had no founder. God exists as One Supreme Reality (Brahman) manifested in many gods and goddesses. Teaches salvation by works.
4. Siddharta Gautama (the Buddha) in circa 563-483 BC, sought the solution to the problem of human suffering and concluded that the solution was to reject and deny all human desires. Gautama taught salvation by works.

**Jesus and the Apostles thought and taught that He was *the only way to God and to heaven*.**

1. Jesus claimed to be the only road of access to God the Father. (John 14:6)
2. Jesus Christ claimed that those who believe in Him will have eternal life, and that those who do not believe in Him will perish. (John 3:16-18 and John 8:24)
3. Jesus Christ claimed to be God. (John 8:56-59 referring to Exodus 3:14 and also see John 10:30)
4. Thomas the Apostle (aka "*Doubting Thomas*") called Jesus God. John 20:28
5. Paul the Apostle called Jesus God. (Titus 2:13) and says that Jesus created the world. (Col. 1:16-17)
6. John the Apostle says Jesus was God from the very beginning. John 1:1-3
7. John the Baptist taught that you had to believe in Jesus to get eternal life and that if you didn't God's wrath would remain on you. (John 3:36)
8. Peter the Apostle proclaimed that the only name on earth by which any one could be saved was "Jesus". (Acts 4:12)
9. Paul the Apostle taught that Jesus was the one and only mediator between God and man. (1 Timothy 2:5)
10. John the Apostle said that if you have Jesus you have eternal life and if you don't have Jesus you will not have eternal life. (1 John 5:11-12)

**Summary:** Jesus Christ claimed to be the only way to God the Father, the only source of forgiveness and eternal life. The Apostles made the same claims for Him and about Him and all but one died a martyr's death because they would not stop proclaiming Him as Son of God and Savior of the world.

So what do you think? Jesus was either ...

- 1) the greatest deceiver and liar that ever lived or
- 2) a misguided self-deluded lunatic who really believed that He was the Son of God and Savior of the world or
- 3) He really was the Lord He claimed to be and really did what He said He came to earth to do, to seek and to save lost mankind. (Lk 19:10)

Message

So who do you say that He is?

Is Jesus Christ a liar, a lunatic or the Lord?

Action Points:

Repent and confess, believe and receive.