

# exclusive faith

If something truly is true then other things must be false. Contradictions cannot be true and all world religions have contradictions in them. They don't say the same thing. .... Every single major world religion, even atheism, the lack of religion, is exclusive.

 MICHELLE  
TEPPER

GREG  
CLARKE 

We should look carefully and thoughtfully at what the religions teach because it's just wrong to suggest they all teach the same thing. They just don't. I mean it's disrespectful to all religions to say that they're all kind of pathways to the one reality. They teach very different things. So for a few examples – Islam has very different teachings about Jesus to Christianity. Judaism has a different teaching about Jesus to Christianity. You're going to find differences in areas of morality. You'll find differences in understanding of history, differences in the character of God. And so you have to be thoughtful about other religions and look at what they actually say about God, the world and humanity; and compare and contrast them, and then make your call on which one you think is closer to the truth.

You can hinge our certainty (that there is only one way to God) on one verse in the Bible. Jesus makes this claim. He says, 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' And though it's one statement, there's lots of things that weave through Scripture that point to this idea that Jesus, being God himself, fully God and fully man is the way to God because he is God himself. And so He claims that since He is God, He's our pathway to God, He's God come down so that we can finally have a relationship with God.

 MICHELLE  
TEPPER

towards  belief

OS  
GUINNESS 

A simple way of looking at it is to see there are three great families of faiths, families in the sense that some faiths have a common family resemblance because they all believe in the same ultimate source of reality. If you see it that way there's the Eastern families as the first – Hinduism, Buddhism and the New Age movements – and they all believe in an impersonal ground of being. So god maybe for Hindus but with a small 'g'. The second family is the Secularists – atheists, agnostics, naturalists in science, materialists in philosophy - and they all believe that everything goes back to chance. And the third great family of faiths is the Abrahamic, which of course is the Jewish faith, the Christian faith, and those two shape the West. And now we've got the Muslim faith. They all go back to the notion of a personal, infinite God and everything flows from that. It's only in the Jewish and Christian understanding that humans are made in the image of God so they have a precious dignity that can't be alienated. So you see the differences are extreme and the differences make a difference and people have to choose carefully.

The trouble is in the media in our world today in the West particularly, the ideas come about that the default position is atheism and every other position must justify itself. Now I don't accept that. So if no Christians enter into the debate with these very vocal atheists the impression given to the public is the atheists have won by default. I feel it's important that someone stands up and challenges and tries to demonstrate with God's help that the Emperor has no clothes.

 JOHN  
LENNOX

JOHN  
POLKINGHORNE

There are a lot of people out there who just want to be told don't bother about religion, don't bother about God. And I think that's just a popular message because people want to 'do it my way' as they popularly say.

There's a young generation of people that aren't content with simplistic answers. They want rational thought and they want to be moved away from the sad stereotype that unfortunately some Christians have given that Christianity is anti-intellectual. They want to see that God is worthy of their mind.

JOHN  
LENNOX

MICHAEL  
RAMSDEN

If God somehow made himself known to us and said 'Look, hey this path will take you to the top', then surely we can trust that. But for us to say all of the paths will lead to Him, on what basis would we know that's true?

There's a wonderful sentence from Robert Jensen's *Systematic Theology* – "God is whoever raised Jesus from the dead, having first raised Israel from Egypt." Now that gives the bottom line. So you don't start with a generalised conception of God and then you think 'well we just share that with a lot of people'. You, as a matter of fact start with, God is whoever raised Jesus from the dead.

STANLEY  
HAUERWAS

MAREQUE  
IRELAND

There is one thing that's unique about the Christian faith that matters today for the person that you meet at Starbucks...it's hope. I think that's what's unique about Christian faith.

I don't know if I came to a decision that Christianity was the right religion but I came to the decision that Jesus was the only way. That every other religion seemed to tell me how I could hopefully access God's acceptance and love. And the message of Jesus was that there was no way to earn God's love and earn his favour but to simply accept a favour and a love that was already coming my way. And that's the beautiful thing to me about Jesus. Every religion was me chasing after God and the message of Jesus was God chasing after me.

ERWIN  
McMANUS

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