

## **Your Greatest Doubts and Fears**

### **How to Keep the Faith When Facing Life's Toughest Questions**

#### #3: Does saying Jesus is the Only Way Make Us Arrogant or Intolerant?

Intro: Tom Cruise on Oprah

#### I. Aren't Christians Just Arrogant Know-It-Alls?

##### A. Christians Are Arrogant Only if You Assume the World's Definition of Religion

- The world defines "religion" as man's fallible, flawed attempt to find God
- But Christianity is the opposite—it is God *revealing himself* to man

##### B. Christians Are Arrogant Only If They Have No Grounds for Their Claim

- We don't believe Christ is the only way simply because we like our religion the best!
- We believe Christ is the only way because he (and the Bible) teaches it

**John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**Acts 4:12** "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

**1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

#### II. Aren't All Religions Essentially the Same?

##### A. But All Religions are *Not* the Same

- Religions have many irreconcilable contradictions
- Even secular people reject certain religions (cannibalism?)

##### B. Christianity is Fundamentally Different

- Christianity is about Grace
- Christianity has the person of Jesus

### III. Aren't All Truth Claims Relative?

#### A. Relativism is Never Followed Consistently

- Some people think religion is like taste in music—it's subjective
- But, do people apply this to other parts of life? Science? A court of law?

#### B. Relativism is Self-Refuting

- "All sentences are false." Is this sentence true or false?
- Spiritualist Sri Chinmoy: "False religions will find fault with other religions; they will say that theirs is the only valid religion and their prophet is the only savior. But a true religion will feel that all the prophets are the savior of mankind."
- Key point: Relativism is a veiled form of absolutism (e.g., Elephant and the Blind Men)

### IV. If Christ is the Only Way, Isn't That Unfair?

#### A. The Man on the Desert Island Problem

- How can God send people to hell for not believing in Jesus if they never had a chance?
- Isn't that unjust and unfair?

#### B. But This Misses Some Key Things:

- God owes no one salvation—if it were owed it would not be a gift
- People aren't judged for rejecting Jesus, but because they are sinners. Even the man on the desert islands "knows God" and rebelled against God in his heart (Romans 1:18-20)

#### Class Schedule:

Jan 9: Doubting Christian: What Role do Doubts and Fear Play in the Christian Life?

Jan 16: [Class cancelled for snow]

Jan 23: If Christianity is True then Why do so Many Intelligent People reject it?

Jan 30: Does saying Jesus is the Only Way Make us Arrogant or Intolerant?

Feb 6: Does the existence of evil and suffering in the world mean that God doesn't exist?

Feb 13: Some parts of the Bible seem morally troubling—are we sure it's a "good" book?

Feb 20: How Do I Deal with Depression and Anxiety About the Future?

Feb 27: Missions Week, Combined Sunday School

Mar 6: If Christianity is true, then how we do explain the bad behavior of Christians?

Mar 13: Isn't Christianity just the same as all the other religions? What makes it different?

Mar 20: What if the Gospels are just made-up stories? Is it possible everything we believe is a lie?

Mar 27: Lots of Christians are "deconstructing" their faith? Does that mean Christianity isn't true?

April 3: What do I do if Christianity Just isn't working for me?

April 10: What if I am Not a Christian? How Can I Know for Sure?