

**Series:** Questions People Ask  
**Title:** How Can Jesus be the Only Way to God?  
**Text:** Romans 5:1-11; Acts 4:1-12; John 14:6  
**Key Word:** Questions  
**Proposition:** Every person can accept the possibility that Jesus is the only way to God by asking these questions.

Jesus makes a startling claim when he said, *“I am the way and the truth, and the life; no one can come to the Father except through me.”* Many people consider this claim as arrogant, narrow-minded, and bigoted. In a culture of religious tolerance, this exclusive claim is politically incorrect, a verbal assault on other belief systems. Even some theologians label it as “religious chauvinism” or “spiritual dictatorship.” These views quickly gain acceptance in our “open-minded” culture. Yet, Christians believe that since Jesus, the Son of God, said it; it is absolutely true. It is a fact

Many believe that no “fact” is considered universally true at all times, at all places, for all people, and in all cultures. About two-thirds of Americans now deny there’s any such thing as absolute truth. That is why so many bristle at the Christian assertion that they possess the only way to an authentic relationship with God. They complain, “Who are they to judge?” Where is the love of Jesus in this kind of exclusive attitude?”

So, many ask, “How Can Jesus Be the Only Way to God?” Let’s begin by asking a few other questions. First, **how arrogant is it for Christianity to claim absolute truth?** Christianity is not the only exclusive religion in the world. For example, Islam is spiritually exclusive in the sense that only Muslims can have the opportunity for

heaven. In addition, they believe the sole authority rests in the Koran, which can only be understood in Arabic. Buddhism asserts two fundamental claims, that its scriptures are the only authority for life and truth. Hinduism exclusively asserts their law of Karma or the law of cause and effect, and also reincarnation. Those religions that claim to tolerate other religious faiths do not tolerate those who practice an exclusive faith. So when they talk of exclusive arrogance they are pointing fingers back at themselves.

Truth naturally excludes all things that are not true. When Jesus asserts that He is the way, the truth and the life, He implies that truth is absolute and knowable; so all that contradicts His claims are false. There is no in-between, no “any direction will do.” Jesus is who He says he is or not. It is a matter of life or death.

**Secondly, why should anyone trust Jesus’ claim that He alone is the way and the truth and the life?** We can say that since Jesus fulfilled his promise by rising from the dead, and over a period of forty days physically appeared to his disciples and to 500 people at one time, He must not be a martyred prophet, but the Living God.

We can also say that the claims of Christ best address the basic questions of life that all religions speak to: First, what is our origin? Second, what is the meaning of life? Third, what is the source of morality? Finally, what is the human destiny?

The Christian faith teaches that our origin is God. We are created by Him, for Him, and in Him all things hold together. We are His creation, created in His image with knowledge of right and wrong. The Christian faith teaches that this image has been distorted because of the rejection of God’s way and purposes. As a result, instead

of God defining what is good and what is evil, we define what is good or evil. No wonder the world is in such a mess. We have crime, war, poverty, greed, malice, hatred, discord, and all kinds of perversion all because we humans have called evil good and good evil instead of allowing an eternal, moral, all-powerful, all-knowing God to define moral standards.

The Christian faith also teaches that meaning in life is primarily found in worshipping the Creator, not creation. Our attempts to be good or to love often leave one disappointed, frustrated, empty and alone. Christianity teaches that loving God first with all ones heart, soul, and mind will enable us to love others as ourselves.

The Christian faith teaches that our destiny is not in being recreated into some other form of creation as a form of payment in a previous life. The Christian faith does not say that our destiny is death itself. The Christian faith teaches that our destiny is based not on our human effort, but on the effort of Jesus who rose from the dead. His resurrection not only proved that He was God, but also opened the door to eternity for all who will follow Him. My friends, I do not know of any hope for the world than eternity. Because of the Empty tomb, we're assured of the forgiveness of sin, of being made right with God, and all who follow Christ can be assured of spending eternity with God. Therefore, the Christian faith provides a clear and comprehensive explanation for the fundamental issues of life. It makes the most sense. (Pause)

**Next, how important is it to live a good moral life?** Since there are moral-living Jews, Muslims, Christians, Mormons, and Hindus, why does it matter what a

person believes about God as long as they strive to do what is good, right, and just? How a person lives out their life in relationship with others is extremely important. But what we believe is more important than how we live. What we truly believe will be reflected in how we live out our lives. This question assumes that morality is what life is all about.

Would you consider the possibility that life is not about morality? If life is all about morality then why did Jesus come? If this assumption is true then Jesus came to make bad people good. Yet, the Bible teaches that Jesus did not come to make bad people good. He came to make dead people live. He came so that all who are dead in their sins, dead to God can come to the fullness of life. Paul wrote, *“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...but because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”* (Ephesians 2:1, 4-5)

If being a moral person was the most important thing in our lives then we would always be a moral person. But experience teaches us, and the Bible confirms it, that we cannot live up to our standards, let alone the standards and the character of God. The Jew can't live up to the standard of his/her faith, nor the Muslim, nor the Hindu, or Buddhist, or the moral atheist. We all miss the mark. That is what sin is, missing the mark. And that is why God's grace is so important and essential. Apart from His grace, we cannot do that which is good, loving, just, and peaceful. We can not have peace with our past mistakes. We can not have forgiveness toward those who have wronged

us. Grace, God's unmerited, undeserving, unconditional love and mercy is what sets the Claims of Christ apart from every other world religion. Every other religion says that we have right our own wrongs; we have to earn enough points in order to have our sin forgiven and forgotten; we have to achieve certain results before we are assured of heaven. Christianity says, NO, Christ has already made us right with God. All that is required is our openness to receive the gift by trusting in Him.

Imagine that Cleveland Cavalier star LeBron James and I were competing in a jumping contest. The goal would be for both of us to jump from a standing position and touch the ceiling. The one who is the closest wins. Who do you think would touch the ceiling? Right, neither one of us. But who would jump closer? LeBron. But neither one of us could touch the ceiling. We're not strong enough. We can't train enough. We can't learn enough jumping techniques. We can't get our minds focused enough to overcome the force of gravity and our weight. Yes, LeBron is stronger, a better jumper, more righteous than I, but he is still under the power of gravity. He misses the mark. No human being could reach it because the distance from floor to ceiling is too great. The gravity of Sin keeps us separated from God. It is so great that no human can overcome it. So does that mean that it is futile to attempt to live a good life?

We must ask, "**How important is it to live a good moral life?**" It is important. It does matter. Without a moral life any society would be in anarchy and well on the way to self-destruction. One of the most virtuous people that walked the earth during the modern era was Mahatma Gandhi. Some even claim that he lived a better moral life

than most Christians. Why would he be sent to eternal separation from God because he did not believe in and follow Christ Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life? Friends, let me be clear, the Bible teaches that no human being sends another to heaven or to hell. In fact, God does not send anyone to heaven or to hell; the person chooses heaven or hell by his/her response to God's grace. And that decision is also initiated by grace.

From the story of Abraham and his concern about the residents in Sodom and Gomorrah, we remember that Abraham asked, "*Will not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?*" God will always do that which is right in the case of the Gandhi's of this world. Remember that the Bible teaches that anyone spending eternity with God is there because of the grace and provision of Jesus Christ, which the person has both trusted and received. If a person rejects this gift, then was he a good person or a bad person? The Bible is clear no person is good as God defines it, because of sin, until that person places ones trust in the grace of God in Jesus Christ. All remain unrighteous until they trust Christ Jesus for salvation.

If I try to work myself to heaven by doing what is good and right, then I say I need no Savior, because I am my own savior. And this contradicts all the revelations of the Bible concerning our origin, the meaning of significance, the basis of morality, and our destiny. The worst things in life are not death or murder. The worst thing is to say to God we don't need him.

Some may ask, "**What about those who haven't heard about Jesus being the only way to God?**" The Bible is consistently clear: "*Salvation is found in no one else,*

*for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”* (Acts

4:12) It is also interesting to note that Paul addressed a group of Greek philosophers in Athens and in his debate with them he said, *“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determine the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him, though he is not far from each one of us.”* My friends God has a wonderful plan for every human being who lives on the face of the earth. He assigns the time and place of their birth. He places each person in a position where they might seek him, in whatever nation, whatever time, whatever circumstances. God is always within reach if we would truly chase after Him. There is always the possibility of a person crying out on their knees, “God help me,” and when that happens the God of every possibility always finds a way to communicate his love and mercy, even in ways beyond our wildest imaginations. God can and shall break any barrier, whether environmental or emotional, cultural or catastrophic, to make the love of His Son Jesus to break through the human heart. God will even use His infinite power to reveal his purposes and presence through creation itself. God puts the law in our conscience so that we might seek after Him. God can use a Muslim’s dream or vision to bring that person to Christ. God can use another Christian to mysteriously appear in a person’s life to share God’s love in word and deed offering God’s gift of salvation. Nothing is beyond the power of Almighty God. Where ever we are God is not far from us. He is able to speak through creation, our conscience, our circumstances, and our community, so we are without

excuse. Everyone one of us will know enough truth so that if they respond to the known truth, God will reveal even more truth. If one truly, sincerely, seeks after God, He will help that person to hear him.

A young man from India grew up in a home of where there was little religion practiced. They were not Buddhists, Muslim, or Hindu. And in that country if one does not practice either of these faiths one must be a Christian by default. He grew up with the pressure to succeed academically. If one was not at the top of the class one was consider a loser with no hope for success. He couldn't stand this pressure and attempted suicide. Fortunately, someone found him before the drug overdose would take his life and he was saved. His mother came to his room and read these words of Jesus, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me...Because I live you also shall live.*" The living Christ spoke to this young man. And he prayed, "Jesus, I don't know much about who you are, but you are telling me you're the author of life. I want this life. If you take me out of this hospital room, I will leave no stone unturned in my pursuit of truth." He has never looked back since. The Lord says, "*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you.*" (Jeremiah 29:13,14a)