

Are All Religions the Same?

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INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever been asked the question, “Are all religions the same?” As Christians, we know right away that the answer to that question is, “No.” But how do you respond to that question? This is where apologetics is necessary.

Apologetics is the ability to “earnestly contend for your faith” (Jude 3) and “be ready to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). Apologetics, a biblical term found in 1 Peter 3:15, means to present a verbal defense or a reasoned argument.¹ It is the discipline of defending your faith through systematic argumentation and discourse.

A great Biblical example of one that used apologetics would be the Apostle Paul in Acts 17 when he addressed the Jews in the synagogue and the philosophers at Mars Hill. Verse 16 of Acts 17 says that he “disputed” or “discussed” with them Jesus. He acknowledged their devotion, but also pointed out their error. The result of this discourse is found in verses 32 and 34.

Acts 17:32-34 – And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. ³³ So Paul departed from among them. ³⁴ Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed:

Just as Paul, you and I must follow the Biblical command of 1 Peter 3:15 and learn how to defend our faith. We must “be ready to give an answer to every man that asked you a reason of the hope that is in you.”

So how do you answer the question, “Are all religions the same?” Our first statement of defense and proof may be John 14:6.

John 14:6 – Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

While this is true, and should be the foundation of our discussion, we must present why this is a valid conclusion. Those that say that all religions are the same would place no higher value in the words of the Bible than they would in any other religious writing. So where do you go from here?

It is important that you understand your role:

1.0 What is My Role?

¹ Strong, J. (1995). [Enhanced Strong's Lexicon](#). Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Your goal is not convince them, that is the Holy Spirit's role. Your goal is *not to prove* to them that Jesus is the only way. Why? Because belief that Jesus is the way is by faith.

Your role is to present the facts, using Scripture and logic, then get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit convict.

2.0 Where does this question originate?

It is rooted in the ideas of **relativism** and **religious pluralism**. These are foundational thoughts pervasive in our culture that transforms ones worldview into believing that all religions are the same.

2.1 Relativism

- Relativism teaches that all points of view are equally valid.
- It is the idea that truth is relative.
- What is true for you may not be true for me but both points of view are true.
- In other words, truth is in the eye of the beholder. *I decide what is true for me and you decide what is true for you and we are both equally true.*

2.2 Religious Pluralism

Relativism opens the door to **Religious Pluralism**.

- Different beliefs are equally valid even though they have opposing views.
- Basically, religious pluralism teaches that there is more than one option (or religious philosophy) that determines whether we are living a good life and whether we will go to “heaven” after death.
- It means that your “religion” works for you and my “religion” works for me.

3.0 How Do I Counter this Belief?

While presenting the clear truths of the Bible, you must present clear logic. With meekness and fear, we must “*give any answer to every man that asketh a reason.*”

An important step to take here is to establish that Truth does indeed exist. Objective reality can be known. How?

3.1 The Law of Non-Contradiction

The Law of Non-Contradiction states that something **cannot be both true and not true at the same time** when dealing with the same context. If something is true, the opposite of it is false. It is an *either/or* system. Either “A” is true or “B” is true, but they cannot both be true.

3.2 Examples of the Law of Non-Contradiction

- I cannot be at home and not at home at the same time.
- I cannot be in the North Pole and in the South Pole at the same time.
- Your class grade cannot be an “A” and not an “A” at the same time. It's either an “A” or it's not.

3.3 Opposition to the Law of Non-Contradiction

There is a system common in modern society that attempts to reconcile the law of non-contradiction with the belief that all religions are the same. It's known as the **Dialectal System**.

The law of non-contradiction is an either / or system. *Either* my car is in the garage *or* it is not. It cannot be both inside and outside the garage at the same time.

The Dialectical System is a *both/and* philosophy. They attempt to say that the car can be *both* inside *and* outside the garage and that both views are true. However, those that hold to this system are saying that you *either* believe in a *both/and* system *or* you believe in nothing.

This system requires an *either/or* to follow a *both/and*.

No matter how hard they try to avoid object truth, the *either / or* always seems to come pop up.

3.4 The Benefit of Law of Non-Contradiction for Christians

- The law of non-contradiction establishes that truth is not subjective, it is objective.
- It establishes that all religions cannot be true. You cannot have two opposing views and both of them be true.
- When applied in light of Jesus' own words in John 14:6 about Him being the one way to heaven, it now becomes a reasonable statement to the skeptic.

4.0 Can All Religions be the Same?

An intellectually honest individual with a basic understanding of the law of non-contradiction must conclude that there cannot be many ways to heaven.

Opposing view cannot both be true.

All religions cannot be the same.

CONCLUSION:

When you present the truth of the Word of God while using logic, you are then able to establish that objective truth does indeed exist. From there, you must continue to establish that God exists and that the Bible is His Word to man. But this is your foundation...establish that truth exists; that there can be only one way. It's then that your door of opportunity will widen.

Let's commit to studying God's Word and be ready to content for the faith that lies with in you.