

## 'Religion'

From the series:: Conversations... on life, God, and other small topics – 11/04/12

### BIG IDEA

With so many religions in the world, is it really possible to say that Christianity is the only way? If we take [John 14:6](#) serious, then yes, Jesus makes clear that He is the only way to have a relationship with God. The claims of Jesus make Christianity 'exclusive' which often means Christians are accused of being intolerant and closed-minded. But, as one listens to the claims of Christ, what becomes clear is that God is not looking for us to be religious, performing some duty to earn his love, rather, He desires a relationship with all people.

### QUESTIONS

#### Engaging the Head::

- Is Jesus really the only way that people can have a relationship with God? If this is true, what does this mean for the other 5 Billion people on the planet who worship gods and goddesses other than the God of the Bible? Does agreeing with the claims of Jesus really make Christians 'intolerant' and 'closed-minded'?
- Is there such a thing as 'absolute truth?' Is it possible to know this 'truth?' If there is such a thing as 'absolute truth' – a truth that is true for all mankind regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, etc., how should this truth shape who we are and how we live? If there were no such thing as 'absolute truth', what would this mean and how would this impact the world we live in?

#### Engaging the Heart::

- If what matters most to God is a relationship with Him, one that He made possible for us by grace, then why do we so often try to perform to earn this relationship? Do we think that doing or not doing certain things will actually make God love us more or less?
- How does knowing that there is nothing we can do to make God love us more or somehow love us less shape how we not only view God, but interact with God? What are some practical implications of living life in light of this truth.? Consider [Romans 8:31-39](#).

#### Engaging the Hands::

- Many are offended by Jesus' claim that He is the only way to God (see [John 10:9](#), [14:6](#), [Matthew 7:13-14](#)). How can we engage and talk with people from different religions in ways that would be both winsome and compelling? What steps might you begin to take to develop relationships with people from different faith backgrounds that would demonstrate to them the love of Christ?

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **the WELL** – Join the GENESIS Community this Friday evening for a powerful time of worship & prayer beginning at 8PM.
- **This Sunday** – GENESIS will continue the 'Conversation' this Sunday by looking at – **Religion**. Singer – song-writer and modern day abolitionist PW Gopal will be leading worship at both the 9AM & 11AM gatherings.
- **the City** – join GENESIS on the City! The City is a NEW way for GENESIS to communicate and connect people with others within the community. Request an invitation to join the City by going to [genesischurch.onthecity.org](http://genesischurch.onthecity.org)
- **'workers'** – sign-up today to be a 'worker' at GENESIS. Learn more about SERVING with GENESIS by visiting the GENESIS website – <http://www.genesisjourney.com/blog/post/do-you-see-what-i-see>