

# WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN

## #3 Christianity is Exclusivist – Jesus is the Way

With the many religions that can potentially 'collide' in our society, what approaches have people taken in order to avoid any possible conflict and disharmony?

What is the appeal of the 'religions are all the same' position' or the 'all religions are untied by a deep truth' position?

Do you think such views stack up? Why/Why not?

### Other Religions & the New Testament

If we look at the text of the New Testament we realise that Jesus and his followers didn't live in a bubble, isolated from other religions. They critiqued religion. They sought to convert religious people. Read each passage below and discuss what was their critique.

Matthew 23:13-15

Mark 7:1-7

Acts 17:16-31

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

1 Timothy 4:1-5

### Christianity & the World Religions

We don't have the time to look at the detail of what the world's religions teach. If you want to do some study, '*A Spectators Guide to World Religions*' by John Dickson is a very good start. But from a basic knowledge of world religions (pool your knowledge as a group) how do the critiques above (directed at Judaism of the Pharisees or Pagan Idol Worship) give an opposing message to today's main religions?

## **The Big Difference**

There are certainly many things that people of different religions will be able to agree on. But there is some fundamental things that makes the Christianity very unique. Read Ephesians 2:1-10.

- a) What does this say about human nature?
  
- b) What does this say about God?
  
- c) What does this say about the means of becoming one of God's people?
  
- d) What does this say about the place of good works?

Why is Christianity so different to all other religions?

## **The Exclusivity & Inclusivity of Christianity**

On Sunday Garnet made the point that Christians can meet non-believers who are nicer, wiser, kinder than they are. Why can this be possible?

People who accept the exclusive claims of Christianity, can then be radically inclusive of others. Accepting the exclusive claims of Christianity doesn't lead to oppression and judgementalism, but humility and love. How does this work?

