



## Isn't It Arrogant to Claim Jesus is the Only Way

### Overview

#### **I. Is Christianity's claim to "one way through Christ" arrogant?**

- A. All claims regarding matters of faith are exclusive
  - 1. Whether it is "there is no one way" or it is "it is only this way" everyone makes exclusive claims
- B. All religions from (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism or Buddhism) are exclusive by nature
- C. Tolerance is living peaceably while maintaining differences even in the public square
  - 1. Any request to do otherwise is requesting of others that they be intellectually dishonest, and therein the accusing party is playing the part of arrogance

#### **II. Did Jesus claim to be God?**

- A. John 8:58: Jesus invokes the Holy Name of God to Himself (Ex. 3:14)
- B. John 5:18: Evidence that others heard him to be teaching himself to be Divine
- C. John 10:30-33: "I and the Father are one"
- D. Matthew 28:19: "All authority on heaven and earth are mine"
- E. Jesus forgives sin, who but God can do such a thing (i.e. Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21)
- F. What did others think about these claims?
  - 1. John 1:1, 14: John saw Jesus as God
  - 2. Matthew 1:23: Matthew saw Jesus as "God with us"
  - 3. Romans 9:5, Titus 2:13, & Col. 2:9: Paul saw Jesus as God
  - 4. Hebrews 1:1-4: Author of Hebrews saw Jesus as God

#### **III. Objections**

- A. Often taught that Jesus was a good teacher, but not the Son of God
  - 1. This position is indefensible as Jesus must be the following
- B. *Liar*: Jesus claims about Himself were false and He knew it...no room for a "good teacher" if a liar
- C. *Lunatic*: Jesus claims about Himself were false and He didn't know it...no room for a "good teacher" if crazy
- D. *Legend*: Jesus' followers made the whole thing up
  - 1. Non Christian 1<sup>st</sup> Century Historians corroborate with NT accounts
  - 2. Legends take up to a generation+ to build; we find Christian doctrine in place in >20 yrs
  - 3. Jesus appeared to hundreds of people...not drummed up in secret
  - 4. Paul and James conversions post-resurrection, how and why if not true?
  - 5. If Christ didn't raise from dead Romans and Jews could have stopped the spread of Christianity by simply producing the body
  - 6. No one knowingly dies for a lie
- E. *Lord*: This leaves us with the conclusion that Jesus was who He said He was...the Lord Himself

#### **IV. Conclusion**

- A. Our problem is often not intellectual, but moral...we don't have an information problem, we have a worship problem
- B. Acts 10 informs us of those who have not heard
  - 1. Christians must go
  - 2. God's character is trustworthy

#### Questions

1. Given that all make exclusive claims, how are we to deal humbly with those who have different beliefs?
2. How can we show that Christianity is a faith that is in fact humble?
3. Discuss why Christ had to be God. Discuss what happens if He is not God.
4. How does God go about reaching the unreached?
5. How does the exclusivity of Christ speak to your life in the day to day?