

BOLD: Answering the Culture, Part 1
What Makes You Right and Everyone Else Wrong?
The Exclusive Claims of Christianity

Introduction: On Elephants and Religious Pluralism

I. Society and the New Tolerance

- A. What is tolerance?
- B. Pluralism and absolute truth
- C. The Gospel of Christ vs. the Gospel of Oprah

II. Objections to the Exclusivity of Christianity

- A. “The Bible says ‘Don’t judge’; therefore, Christianity isn’t exclusive.”
- B. “Isn’t God a God of love?”
- C. “All religions are basically the same.”
- D. “What about people who never heard of Jesus?”

III. A Positive, Biblical Case

- A. The universal need and the human condition
- B. Jesus Christ, the only mediator
 - 1. Qualified nature
 - 2. Qualified works
- C. The uniqueness of Christianity
 - 1. Public, not private
 - 2. Grace, not works
 - 3. Fulfillment, not inventive
 - 4. Exclusive yet inclusive

IV. Sharing Your Exclusive Faith in a Pluralistic Society

- A. True tolerance – respect for all *people*
- B. Humility – “were it not for the grace of God”
- C. Truth – the issue is with God and his word, not you
- D. Love – becoming all things to all men

Conclusion: About that Elephant in the Room

Resources

*not a wholesale recommendation of each author or entire books

Chapters

“A Particularist View: An Evidentialist Approach”, Chapter 4, *Four Views of Salvation in a Pluralistic World*, R. Douglas Geivett and W. Gary Phillips

“Every Other Religion Is Wrong”, Chapter 1, *Hell? Yes!*, Robert Jeffress

“There Can’t Be Just *One* True Religion”, Chapter 1, *The Reason for God*, Timothy Keller

“Pluralism and the New Definition of Tolerance”, Chapter 9, *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel Wholly by Grace Communicated Truthfully & Lovingly*, Will Metzger

“People should be Free to Pick and Choose What to Believe about Jesus”, Chapter 6, *The Case for the Real Jesus*, Lee Strobel

“Pandering to Pluralism”, Chapter 6, *Pulpit Crimes*, James White

Books

The Intolerance of Tolerance, D.A. Carson

The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism, D.A. Carson

True for You but Not for Me, Paul Copan

The Jesus You Can’t Ignore: What You Must Learn From the Bold Confrontations of Christ, John MacArthur

The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society, Leslie Newbigin

Jesus among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message, Ravi Zacharias