

Objection to Christianity

1. Isn't it arrogant to believe there is just one true religion (Exclusivity)

February 10, 2019

John 14: 16

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

I John 4: 1-10

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Religious Exclusivity Creates

1. Barriers to Peace – Violence/War
2. Superiority – Arrogance/Judgment
3. Division – Separation/Disconnect

Historical Means to Responding to Religious Exclusivity

1. Religious will inevitably weaken
2. Regulation/Persecution
3. Confine to Private Realm
 - all religions are equally valid
 - separation of church & state (vs. 1)

Three Unique Things about Christianity

1. Origin of Salvation (vs. 2, 10)
 - Sacrifice of Jesus, Son of God
2. Purpose of Salvation (vs. 2, 6, 10)
 - Truth/Reconciliation
3. Method of Grace (vs. 9, 10)
 - Salvation is not earned, gift of God's love

How Christianity Negates Exclusivity

1. Origin of Salvation
 - Love: Selfless – Sacrificial service (vs. 7, 8)
2. Purpose of Salvation
 - Investment in not separation from people & world (vs. 2)
3. Method of Grace
 - Humility over superiority (vs. 10)

