

So What About 2.0- Part 3: Narrow-Minded  
John 14:6-7

**I. ME**

- A. Welcome/ Online / So What About?
- B. Series- Importance of Questions
- C. Framework

**II. WE**

- A. Today's question is probably the most dangerous... literally
  - 1. Millions of people have died b/c of different variations of this question.
  - 2. Question: What's the difference between Xianity and other religions?
  - 3. How do you know which one is RIGHT?
  - 4. Crusades, jihads, genocide, civil wars, conquests all b/c people said... my religion is right, yours is wrong... convert or die
- B. And yes some have tried to make peace by saying, "All faiths are equal and virtually the same thing. They all lead to god in their own way."
  - 1. The problem is that's just not true.
  - 2. If you look at the details all faiths can't be true without fundamentally changing what they are.
  - 3. There are real differences.
- C. You might be thinking, "Yeah exactly. That's why I don't do religion."
  - 1. I don't blame you.
  - 2. You have good reasons for that opinion.
  - 3. Are you willing to consider some evidence about Christianity that may be new to you?

- D. So as we explore this question of differences... let's keep this in mind.
  - 1. **Disagreement is not the same as hate or intolerance.**
  - 2. We can disagree without hating each other or disrespecting one another.
- E. So to set up our framework...
- F. The major difference between Jesus and other religions has to do with what we will call (since we're in church) the Sin Problem.
  - 1. Why do we do what we don't want to do?
  - 2. Why do we hurt the people we love?
- G. We've done wrong and it feels like we owe a debt.
  - 1. So we ask questions like (maybe not these words)...
    - a. How do I make up for the wrong that I've done?
    - b. How do I get rid of guilt and shame?
    - c. How can I be forgiven?
- H. **All belief systems have their own answer to the problem of sin...**
  - 1. Sacrifice a sheep at Zeus' temple, submit to Allah, pray 5 times a day, light this candle, sacrifice this goat, do better in your next life, meditate... All of these have been done by people who honestly believed that they were legitimate ways to deal with their own sins.
  - 2. Similar pattern...You have guilt, do these things to try to get rid of it, if it doesn't work do it more and try harder.
  - 3. Read more of this holy book, give more of your money to this holy man, go more often to this holy place.
  - 4. Over and over.

- I. Even if you don't have a religion
  1. You still have some type of method of taking care of your guilt and dealing with your problems and the problems you see around you in the world... don't you?
  2. Making sure you send positive thoughts to the universe
  3. Promoting as much education as possible
  4. Doing good.
  5. Make the world a better place.
- J. AND Some of us, religious or not, try to self-medicate to deal
- K. The answer Jesus gave to the problem of sin is what makes Xianity completely unique.

1. In fact... **Jesus is offensively unique.**

### III. GOD (John 14:6)

- A. Background
  1. John
  2. Passage
    - a. Telling disciples he's about to leave
    - b. Will come back some day
    - c. Thomas says, "We don't know the way to where you are going."
  3. What Jesus says next is the most unique, offensive, even craziest thing he ever said.
  4. It's also the very core of xianity and one of the main reasons people reject Xianity.
  5. It's what sets Jesus apart from all other faith leaders and all other belief systems.

### B. V. 6a

1. Jesus said the way to be right with God, to deal with your sin, past, guilt, the way to have true LIFE...
2. Was not... his teachings, rituals, a holy book, paying penance, sacrifices, positive thoughts, or trying harder...
3. He said HE was the solution.

### C. Unique

1. Every belief system offers a solution to our sin problem...
2. All other beliefs say you have to make up for your past...
3. You have to DO certain things to get the god, gods, universe, society to accept you. To have mercy on you.

### 4. Jesus is the only one that offers himself as the solution.

- a. Not his teachings, a holy book, holy rituals, or holy places...
- b. He is the solution.
5. Not only that...he says he is the ONLY solution...

### D. V. 6b (No one)

1. Offensive
  - a. **If Jesus is right... then every other belief system is wrong.**
  - b. Sure they might have some aspects of truth...
  - c. But their fundamental core is wrong.
2. But let's not dismiss it just b/c it's offensive.

### 3. Offensive isn't the same as false.

4. It just means we don't like it. It makes us uncomfortable. It bothers us.

5. It can be offensive and still be true.

E. But is it true?

1. What Jesus is saying, though unique and offensive, also sounds pretty crazy.

**F. V. 7.**

1. Saying he is God

2. 3 options

- a. Liar
- b. Crazy
- c. Right

G. The disciples... being good Jewish boys should've at least run the other way... their law clearly said Jesus should be put to death for saying things like this.

1. One of the reasons he was executed.

2. And YOU shouldn't really give any of this another thought

3. We should all fight for the exclusive, offensive belief to be abandoned...

4. Except...

H. That same day he told his followers that he was going to die and his death would pay the debt for all of our sin... would provide forgiveness for all of humanity.

1. AND that he wouldn't stay dead.

I. The eye-witness accounts tell us that night he was arrested, and the next day he was killed on a cross.

1. Everyone ran... no one gathered up his teachings to start a new religion b/c he had based all of it on himself.
2. But three days later they saw him alive again.
3. Proving that what he said was true.

4. And that's been the Xian message from the beginning...

**Acts 4:8-12**

5. **Jesus proved his exclusive claim by coming back to life again.**

**IV. YOU**

A. So here's the thing that sets Jesus apart...

1. **Every other belief system says you have to do something to make up for your past wrongs.**

2. To have peace, and forgiveness, a clear conscience, be right with others and God.

3. It gets exhausting. And sometimes very confusing.

4. Working so hard to pay off a debt that you are never sure you are actually paying off.

5. Trying so hard to be something that you know you can never really be.

6. Trying to make up for something that can never be changed.

7. But deep down we know... **No amount of future good erases past wrong.**

8. Almost feel like a slave to the guilt and the effort.

9. Even some versions of Xianity put this on people.

10. Might be why you left Church? Or never committed to it?

B. **If the version of Xianity you've experienced doesn't make you feel free, it's not Xianity.**

- C. Jesus says, "You're free because I've already done everything. You just have to believe me and trust me."
- D. The Apostle Paul summed it up this way... **Colossians 2:13b-14**
  - 1. Those things you have been trying to make up for, pay for, even hide...
  - 2. Have been cancelled... free and clear.
  - 3. **Example of baptism**... washed away.
- E. See **Jesus' claim is the most exclusive in history, but his offer is the most inclusive.**
- F. **Matthew 11:28-30.**
  - 1. "ALL"
  - 2. Anyone. Everyone. Inclusive.
- G. Will you accept his offer?
  - 1. It's too easy!
    - a. That's the point! Gifts are supposed to be easy to get.
  - 2. But I have to do something to make up for what I did!
    - a. What are you going to do to change the past?
- H. God loves you and wants to have a forever relationship with you
  - 1. Our sin separates us from him and each other
  - 2. In order to end sin and wipe it out without destroying us... he died to pay the debt.
  - 3. Rose again to show its paid and that we can have new life through him.
  - 4. Just have to choose to accept it and trust it.

## V. WE

- A. Is Jesus' claim that he is the only right way offensive?
  - 1. Sure. You can choose to look at it that way.
- B. But... If you were taken captive and you were chained up
  - 1. And I came to rescue you
  - 2. I knocked out the guard and took his key
  - 3. And I came to unlock the chains and said... "I'm here to rescue you! This is the only key that will unlock you."
  - 4. Would you say, "That's offensively narrow-minded. And it's just too easy."
  - 5. Or would you say, "Thank you?"
- C. Whether we use the same words or not we all at some point realize we are trapped in/chained to hurts and wrongs we have done to others and ourselves.
- D. Other belief systems either try to ignore it, explain it away, or make you try to work hard yourself to the bone to try to wiggle out of them.
- E. Jesus says... I am the key. Be free.

## F. John 8:32

- G. **The difference between Jesus and other beliefs is freedom.**