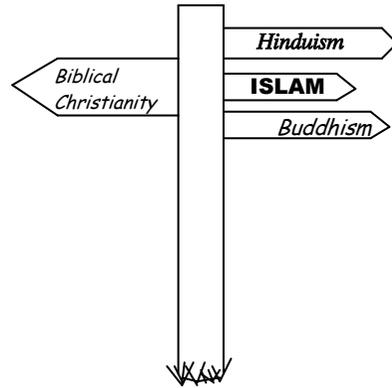


# Is there only one way to God?



When the Pope recently visited this country he called for all Christians to be united and to consider a wider unity with other faiths. We hear a great deal in the media about the need for Christian unity. You may also have noticed how the various 'Christian' denominations in this country have been joining together in recent years.

## Many calls for Christian unity

Some people will say, "What is wrong with this? We all worship the same God? Isn't it about time people stopped arguing with each other, and even fighting each other over religion? Hasn't there been enough trouble in the world because of religion? We need to be more tolerant and we can learn from one another! It is rather like going up a mountain – we can all take a different path and end up at the top together."

On the surface it seems an attractive idea to sink our differences and simply say, "Well, after all, there is only one God, He made us all and providing we do our best and are sincere, what does it matter? In any case, most people have their own ideas

about God and do what they feel is right for them. Can it make any

difference in the end? Who can tell who is right and who is wrong? We must learn to be tolerant and help one another, and that's all that matters."

## Important Questions

However, before we can consider uniting with other faiths, these questions have to be asked, "Are all religions the same? Are all views of God the same? Some religions have

many gods, others only one. Are there any differences that really count? Surely don't the gods of the different religions vary immensely?"

## What the Bible Says

In the Old Testament God taught Israel to be totally separate and distinct from the other nations who worshipped different

gods. He also showed Israel what He was like to them in a very special way. This was in order to teach them

and the world that He was different from all other gods. He alone was the true, almighty, holy, powerful, just and loving God. He made it clear that he did not want Israel to get involved with other gods.

When Jesus Christ was on earth He declared, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Peter declared, "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Paul referred to those who preached "another Jesus whom we have not preached" (2 Corinthians 11:4). There is false teaching and a false message,

which pretends to be the true.

The Bible tells us that there is a heaven and a hell, and we can *only* come to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is

*"No one comes to the Father except through Me"*

the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Christ is the

*only* entrance to the narrow way. He has said to us, "I am *the* way..." He has also said to us that He is *the* door.

## Not by our works

In the Word of God we are taught that we can do nothing whatever to contribute to our own salvation, and must rely only and entirely, by faith, on what God has done in giving us His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die for sinners and rise again. The broad way is the way men prefer because it is a way that offers them something they can contribute towards their own salvation, and makes them feel they are not so bad after all.

## True Christianity

True Christianity is unique. It stands on its own as being completely different from all other faiths. All other religions, apart from true Christianity, tell men and women that they can work their way to heaven with a bit of help. This is

not the message of the Bible. The Bible says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone

should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9). The Bible makes it clear that there is nothing we can do by way of works, to try and 'get right' with God.

We must trust in the works of the Lord Jesus Christ – His life, death and resurrection – which He did on behalf of sinners: on behalf of all who will trust in Him. False religion says, "Do this work and God will accept you." True Christianity says, "Trust in all Jesus Christ has done – despair of ever saving yourself by your own efforts and look to Him to save you." This is what the Bible

teaches.

Jesus Christ calls us to, 'Come to Him' and receive the salvation which only He can give. Have you come to Christ and found the forgiveness of sins?

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