

DISCUSSION GUIDE

STAND FIRM AGAINST PLURALISM
Stand Firm — Week 3

ICEBREAKER: If you were banished to a desert island, would you rather be there alone or with your worst enemy?

OVERVIEW: Pluralism is the belief that there many ways to God; Jesus is not the only way. Is the perhaps the most dominant religious belief in America. In our society, the doctrine of exclusivity is viewed as arrogant, intolerant, imperialistic, divisive, and dangerous. Due to the pressures of society, many believers are either hiding their belief in exclusivity, or sometimes even abandoning the truth altogether. How can we stand firm against pluralism?

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What is the difference between pluralism and exclusivity?
3. Why do Christians believe in exclusivity?
4. The following verses point to the doctrine of exclusivity: John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 5:11-12. Which of these verses is the most irrefutable? Can you think of any other verses that point to exclusivity?
5. Is it arrogant and imperialistic to believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven? Explain.

6. Dr. Paige Patterson, President of Southwestern Baptist Seminary, said that the doctrine of the exclusivity of Jesus Christ is the most hatred doctrine in the world. Why is this doctrine so despised?
7. In the discussion about pluralism, it is important to recognize that Christians don't merely believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven; they believe in many "onlys". What are some other exclusive beliefs held by Christians?
8. Many Christians have fallen into the heresy of pluralism – that there are many paths to heaven, and Jesus is not the only way. What are some of the problems with the doctrine of pluralism?
9. Aren't all religions basically the same?
10. If Jesus is the only way to heaven, what about the people who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ?

The Last Word: When Christians affirm that Jesus is the only way to heaven, they are not being arrogant, just accurate.