

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## *There's Only One Way* Stand-Alone Sermon

**ICEBREAKER:** As a kid, what did you want to grow up to be?

**OVERVIEW:** We live in a pluralistic age in which the only acceptable spiritual belief is the belief that all spiritual beliefs are equally true and valid, and that many paths lead to God. The Bible, however, teaches something strikingly different: The exclusivity of salvation through Christ. In this study we will study the different passages that teach this most hated doctrine, and discuss the problems associated with 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 do the following passages teach about the argument between pluralism and exclusivity?
  1. 1 John 5:11-12
  2. John 14:6
  3. Matthew 7:13-14
  4. John 3:18
  5. John 8:24
  6. Acts 4:12
  7. 1 Timothy 2:5
  8. Exodus 20:3

3. The doctrine of exclusivity has been labeled the most hated doctrine of Christianity. Do you agree, or can you think of some close rivals? Why are some people so hostile toward exclusivity? Are you offended by others who claim theirs is the only true religion? Explain.
4. Some claim that it is arrogant to insist your religion is right and to convert others to it. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
5. Some claim that all religions are equally valid and basically teach the same thing. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
6. Some claim that religions should be outlawed or tightly controlled, especially those with exclusive truth claims, because they divide society and erode the power of the state. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
7. It is becoming increasingly difficult in America to hold to the exclusivity of Christianity due to the growing secularization of culture. Do you believe this doctrine is worth holding to despite the opposition? Explain.

It is no more narrow to claim that one religion is right than to claim that one way to think about all religions (namely that all are equal) is right. We are all exclusive in our beliefs about religion, but in different ways.  
Timothy Keller, *The Reason For God*