

UNDERSTANDING YOUR BIBLE

Distinctiveness of Christianity

Similarities of Christianity with Other Religions:

- All religions address transcendent human need.
- All religions engage people who are generally sincere.
- All religions teach a moral code.

Conclusion: Christianity has similarities with other religions that should be recognized.

Differences Between Christianity and Other Religions:

- The Bible teaches salvation by God's grace, with good works as a result.
- The Bible reveals God as a sovereign Creator-God who exists in three persons.
- Christianity teaches Jesus Christ is God who became a man.

Conclusion: Christianity has differences from other religions that make it distinct.

Christ as the Only Way to God:

- *No one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Matthew 11.27*
- *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3.18*
- *Unless you believe that I am he [the one I claim to be], you will die in your sins. John 8.24*
- *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14.6*
- *And there is salvation in no one else. Acts 4.12*

Conclusion: Christianity's primary distinction is that Christ is the only way to God.



A Classic Passage

Acts 4: The Church Preaches Jesus as the Only Way

- Peter and John are arrested in Jerusalem for preaching salvation in Jesus.
- Peter testifies that the resurrected Jesus healed the crippled man in their midst.
- Peter rebukes his listeners for rejecting Jesus.
- Peter boldly declares Jesus as God's only savior.

A Step to Grow

- This week prepare to diffuse the emotional bomb triggered by Christianity's exclusive claim that Jesus is the only way.

Looking Ahead

- This fall we will launch a ten-week study of the Book of Jonah: Jonah, The Runaway Prophet.



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