

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Following are four objections that are raised regarding Christianity's claim to be the only way to God. Read them aloud.

A: “All major religions are equally valid, produce much wisdom and happiness, and basically teach the same thing.”

B: “Lots of good and intelligent people differ with the Christian viewpoint, so it is arrogant to claim that Christian beliefs are the only true ones.”

C: “You can’t hold people responsible for rejecting Jesus when they have never heard of him.”

D: “Nobody can know whose religion is true, so Christianity can’t claim it is the only true way.”

Divide your group and assign the objections among them. Determine how you would handle that particular objection. After a few minutes share your answers with the group.

Some people would argue that the religious pluralism objection is itself a religious belief, claiming to be more true than opposing beliefs, and as such is subject to all the criticisms it levels at traditional religions. Explain.

During the video discussion Dr. Keller asked the participants what they thought should be done about the divisiveness of religion. One participant responded,

“Has there been a time on the earth where there wasn’t religion, and what would it look like if religion were absent? Would it necessarily be a better place, would it be a less divisive place? I don’t know.”

Another said,

“All the negative aspects of religion are usually tied to extremists, people who take it more ... and more literally.”

What would you have said in response to these statements? Is this how people you know would have responded? Discuss.

Stephen Carter (who was mentioned on the video) writes this,

Efforts to craft a public square from which religious conversation is absent, no matter how thoughtfully worked out, will always, in the end, say to those of organized religion that they alone, unlike everyone else, must enter public dialogue only after leaving behind that part of themselves that they may consider the most vital.⁶

Is it possible to keep all religious views private — away from the public square?

One of the participants asked,

“How do you pick your fundamental, your home? Is it the way you were raised? Is it your own research?”

How do most people you know “pick” their religion or their home? How did you?

Discuss how to handle the more personal side of this topic when you run your own discussion about this objection. Was there anything from the way the video discussion was conducted in terms of tone, atmosphere, attitude, mannerisms, expressions, and so on, that you might find helpful to adopt, or not?

God created us, we fell into sin, he has redeemed us — creation, fall, redemption. How could these three concepts give people a powerful basis to treat with respect and justice those with whom they deeply differ?