

Why Do Christians Claim that Jesus is the Only Way to God?

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Tough Questions Critics Ask Series

John 12:6; Acts 4:12

For the past nine or so years, I have been going down to OSU a couple of times in the fall and a couple of times in the spring to do some open air preaching on the OSU oval. Andy Saperstein, who is finishing up his Ph.D. work in linguistics frequently, accompanies me and some students at OSU including a Christian Fellowship Group called InterVarsity. The reason that I began going down there was because I became offended by one of the campus preachers who stood on the oval and told all the students that essentially God hated them, that they were all prostitutes and whoremongers, and that God was going to delight in burning homosexuals up. And of course, his statements would engender in the crowd an angry response. There would be this horrific scene of the preacher screaming at the students and the students screaming and cursing back at the preacher.

In any case, one day when I was watching this scene and was offended by the perverse representation of Christianity that this preacher was exhibiting – he was almost a caricature from a sitcom of Christian preachers – I was walking across the oval muttering to myself under my breath and I felt like God said to me, “Well, Rich, do you think you could do a better job?”

I stopped and thought about it and I said to myself, “Yes, I do think I could do a better job.” I felt like the Lord said, “Well, son, then why don’t you do it?”

So I was stuck. And I decided to follow through on my convictions and I began going down to the university to present to the students a very different perspective of Christianity than they had heretofore gained from that other preacher.

The approach that I take at OSU when I am speaking out in the open air is more dialogue than preaching. I tell students that Jesus didn’t come into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. And I go onto say that inasmuch as the university is supposed to be the market place of ideas, let’s consider the idea that Christianity is true. I invite them to ask questions, anything they want. I say to them, “If you have a question or a comment about God or about Christians or about church or the Bible or life in general, if you think you have something better to offer to the world than Christianity, yell it out.” Invariably, one of the first two or three questions, usually the first one that any student will ask me is why do Christians claim that Jesus is the only way to God. At the top of students’ lists of objections they have to Christianity is this claim of exclusivity that Jesus is the only way to God. It strikes students in the 90’s as being narrow, as being unbelievably intolerant and arrogant, and the claim that Jesus is the only way to God may strike some of you that way this morning.

After all, we are Americans. And America is a melting pot in which people from every conceivable ethnic and religious background come together to form one nation. On our money we have the Latin phrase “E Pluribus Unum” – From the many, one. And at the heart of our national union stands this principle of toleration, especially religious tolerance. People came from all over the world seeking freedom to express their own religious convictions and to worship God in their own way.

My own heritage is that of Russian Judaism. And my own family came to the United States in the 1890's to escape massive persecution in Russia under the Czars. That persecution was known as the pogroms. Every spring, around Easter, Russian soldiers would ride into my family's village and burn homes, kill some of the citizens, and sack the local Synagogue. And these pogroms increased in severity so that it is estimated that during the 1880's and 90's, over a million Jews were killed in Russia.

It was to flee this kind of persecution that my family as well as millions of other families from around the world came to the US to seek equal treatment under the law. To live in a place where they didn't have to fear that someone was going to come and burn their house down in the middle of the night or murder their children or declare their stores and shops to be illegal and pad-lock them. Now here I am a century later having come to the conviction in college more than 20 years ago that Jesus was the fulfiller of all of the promises made by God to the Jewish people in the Old Testament; having come to the conviction that Jesus is the Messiah – does that now mean that I have come to the place of agreeing with the persecutors of my ancestors?

Back in the 1960's and early 70's people who were called Jesus Freaks, part of the Jesus People Movement, used to hold up one finger. By that they were saying “one way”. You would go to different meetings and people would hold up one finger and say “one way.” There is one way to God. You know, if you have trouble with the claim that Jesus is the only way to God, know that you're not the first in history to have this problem. People in the first century had a similar problem. To the Jews, Jesus was presented as the one who superceded their religion – who made the temple and the law and the priests and the rituals obsolete. The Romans were very broad minded. They worshipped many different gods and didn't require full commitment to any one god in particular. They allowed many cults that offered many different ways of salvation. To be a good Roman meant you were tolerant of all the various ways of salvation and selected for yourself the best way. Then Christianity came along and taught Jesus as the only way.

The Romans called them intolerant. They called them atheists, since they denied all the gods except one. Is that by definition intolerant, bigoted and arrogant? Does a claim of uniqueness automatically destroy civil harmony?

John Lennon thought so. The assassinated member of the Beatles asked us to imagine a world in which there was no religion and claimed in such a world people would live lives of peace.

Friends, the moment anybody claims that their religion, their God, their Savior, is the true one, a red-blooded American is going to stand up and say,

“That just will lead to intolerance.”

“That is bigoted.”

“Look at all the wars that have been fought in the name of religion.”

“Look at the killings that have been done throughout history in the name of religion.”

I feel like I must, as an initial matter, unpack this issue of tolerance and bigotry if we are to begin to get a handle on why Christians claim that Jesus is the only true way to God, because people throughout history have raised it. I would say a few things just by way of introduction to this whole topic.

The first thing I would note, in contrast to John Lennon, is that getting rid of religion, or even the exclusive claims of a particular religion, will not end intolerance or violence or bigotry. We have had a century long experiment in the real world in which countries have tried to ban religion in the name of humanity and mutual respect. Just get rid of religion and we will live in peace. Well, they’ve tried that. They tried that in the former Soviet Union. They tried that in China. They tried that during the French Revolution. They tried that in Cambodia. The most intolerant and bigoted countries in the history of the world have been those countries that banned religion.

The reason why religious people are sometimes intolerant is the same reason that non-religious people are sometimes intolerant. Because of what the Bible calls sin that resides in each of us. People kill each other and hurt each other and scream at each other for a million reasons, only one of which is differing religions.

So, let me clear away this huge obstacle of the claim of intolerance right from the outset. True followers of Christ never want to force their religion down anyone’s throat. True followers of Christ want to share their faith in an atmosphere that is always characterized by love, graciousness and tolerance. The fact that we want to share issues of faith in an atmosphere of love does not mean that we Christians believe that the issues we are discussing are not important. We support, as much as anyone, the right of every religious person in this country to follow the dictates of their consciences without fear of persecution. We don’t want to be persecuted. And we certainly don’t want anyone else to be persecuted either.

But those of us who are followers of Christ would say that there is a difference between equal toleration and equal protection under the law and equal validity according to the truth. What if God has provided only one way for people to be saved? Let’s set aside, for the moment, the issue of tolerance and bigotry and come to a common agreement that all of us, followers of Christ, and those of you, who are not followers of Christ, should condemn bigotry and intolerance. Let’s also set aside the issue of whether we like the idea that there might be just one way to God. Second, let’s remember that it was not Christians who made up this claim to be the one way to God. Jesus said it. If you don’t like it, blame Jesus, not His followers. They’re just echoing His claim.

The issue I’m going to deal with is not whether we like Jesus’ claim that he was the only way to God. You may like it; you may dislike it. The issue we’re

going to consider is: Was Jesus' claim to be the only way to God true? Was it, true, however narrow it sounds? Was it true?

So, this morning we are going to deal with the very tough question: "Why Do Christians Claim That Jesus Is The Only Way to God?" Let's pray.

The whole issue of Christians' claim that Jesus is the only way to God finds its sharpest focus in John 14:6 in which Jesus says, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Let's look at the context of this extraordinary claim by Jesus of Nazareth. Beginning in John 14:1, Jesus offers some words of comfort that are frequently read at Christian funerals. Here are his words:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

The context of the claim to Jesus' claim that He is the way, the truth and the life, is His announcement that He will be leaving the disciples shortly. He is prophesying His coming death and the fact that He will no longer be physically with the disciples as their leader and guide, comforter and teacher. He also prophesied the fact that His closest disciple, Peter, would deny Him. In 13:37 Peter asks, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"

So in the midst of these prophecies that He will soon be leaving and also that His disciples will end up disowning Him, Jesus utters these words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Stop being troubled. Don't continue to be troubled. The word literally means agitated, not so much sadness, but conflicting emotions. They are storm-tossed. They are conflicted. They must have been ashamed of the prophecy that they were all going to leave Him. They were perplexed by His claim that He was going to leave. They were fearful. He says, "Don't be troubled."

And it is interesting that Jesus would say something like that in contrast to the modern idea that you can't do anything about how you feel. The Bible frequently tells us to stop feeling a certain way. Stop being anxious. Stop being troubled. Do not be angry. In contrast, again, to so much of the modern literature that says, well, I can't do anything about my feelings, the Bible says you can do something about your feelings. You don't have to ride the wave of your feelings.

But I want you to see the way that Jesus counsels us about our feelings. He is the most brilliant counselor who ever lived, Jesus of Nazareth. So listen to His counsel. He says,

"Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would not have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

This isn't just empty rhetoric, trite little advice. Don't worry. Don't be storm-tossed. Be happy. Things will turn out all right. I will just hope for you that everything will be okay. It's always darkest before the dawn. He says: I want to offer you a cure for your fear-filled heart. I want to give you the best remedy that anyone could offer you for a fear-filled heart. And the remedy is a trusting heart, a trusting heart. That in place of your fear, I want you to have faith. Instead of trying to manage your circumstances, I want you to surrender your circumstances to the Lord. The reason why you can do this is because I am making you a promise that our separation from each other is not permanent. That my going away has a purpose. It is to prepare for a final reunion. I am going to prepare a place for you and there is plenty of room in my father's house – not just a few apartments. Not just one guest room for the extra special saint. I am expecting a lot of company and so I am preparing for an enormous banquet and plenty of people staying over.

God always plans for a big crowd. And He always makes sure that every person gets an allotted share. When the Promised Land was given to the Jews in the Old Testament, God gave every single family an allotment of land in the Promised Land. And so Jesus is promising a huge place with plenty of room for every single follower of His to have an allotment. He tells His followers that they know the place that He is going. Verse 4:

“You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Now, He is not in error when He tells His disciples “you know the way to the place I am going”. They do know the way. The problem is that they don't know that they know the way. And so in verse 5, Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” In other words: Lord, I don't even know the destination. How can I know the way there?

I might just briefly mention to you that it is not a bad thing to confess ignorance sometimes. One of the easiest ways for you to grow spiritually is to confess that you don't know certain key spiritual lessons. Instead of pretending that you are an expert in all things spiritual, the way that you will best grow is to ask questions. Ask people who are a step ahead of you; ask God.

While everyone kicks Thomas around, Jesus rarely did. Instead, Jesus generally answered Thomas' questions. Because while he was slow and found it hard to believe, nevertheless, he had a hungry heart and he was really sincere in his questioning. Jesus doesn't mind ignorance so long as you really want to know the truth. The way one discovers things about God is to confess that you don't know all that you need to know.

Thomas is asking one of the major questions that anyone ever could ask. What is the way to heaven? Jesus says in verse 6: “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.”

But the question arises, “Rich, aren't there many ways to God?”

To those who say that Christians are being narrow-minded and self-righteous and intolerant by claiming that Jesus is the only way to God, a very good response would be that we didn't claim it first. We are simply repeating the words of our Lord. We are simply saying what Jesus said. And note that Jesus uses the definite article “the” when he says, “I am THE way...” Jesus did not

claim to be “a” way. He didn’t say, “I am one way.” “I am the best way.” He didn’t even say, “I am here to teach you the way. To guide you in the way. To show you the way. Or even to point you to the way.” He said, “I am the way.”

And so we have to face the objection: Aren’t there many ways to God? Perhaps Jesus was wrong here. You know the illustration. If God were sitting up on top of a mountain, surely there must be many paths and many ways up the mountain. And they all lead to God. Why can’t Christians see that?

Well the reason we followers can’t see that is because to be a follower of Jesus means that in part you follow Jesus’ teachings. Do you know that Jesus never spoke about there being many roads up a mountain? He spoke about just two roads. Just two – one road leading to eternal life and a relationship with God and the other road leading to eternal damnation and permanent separation from God. There are not many roads up a mountain. There are just two roads.

Think about it in the physical world. All roads don’t lead to the same place. No matter how long you travel from this building going east, you will never get to Florida. No matter how fast you drive, no matter how sincere you are, Florida is south and getting on a road heading east will not take you there. There is the same kind of objective reality in the spiritual world. Just because we are dealing with God doesn’t mean that any road will lead you to God. If there is a real God, and if there isn’t all religions are just a fraud, if there is a real God, then there is a real way to get to God. The roads to God are not something that people create. The road to God is something that people discover. Or even better, that God has revealed.

Friends, here is the bottom line truth. Every spiritual path does not lead up the mountain. And this idea that all spiritual paths do lead us to God is not only a lie, but it is a tragic lie that costs millions of people their souls. The fact is a lot of roads lead down and not up.

You know, the most influential book, next to the Bible, that taught this doctrine of there just being two roads is Augustine’s “City of God.” Augustine saw all of human history under the image of two cities, two spiritual communities. Here is what Augustine said way back in the 5th Century:

“Two loves have made two cities. The love of self to the despising of God has made the city of the world. Love of God to the despising of the self has made the city of God. Let a man consult himself to see what he loves and he will find what city he belongs to.”

The great English writer, C.S. Lewis, also used the principle of there just being two roads, not many roads, just two roads in a book called *The Great Divorce*. Here is what C.S. Lewis said:

“There are only two kinds of people in the end. Those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done’ and those to whom God says in the end, ‘Thy will be done.’”

But we are not living in a world where all roads, if pursued long enough, eventually join and meet at the center. Rather, we are living in a world in which every road after a while forks in two, and then in two again. And at each fork you must make a decision. The truth is that we are continually faced in our lives with forks in the road. And either we choose to believe that Jesus is who He said He was when we reach the fork, the way to God, the way to happiness, the way to

blessedness, or we say, “No, not His will be done, but my will be done” and you take the other fork and that fork does not lead to God. The other fork does not lead to happiness and blessedness. It takes you away from God.

You know, this is by no means the only place where Jesus claims to be the only way to God. In John 10:7, Jesus says, “I tell you the truth, I am the Gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through me will be saved.”

I am the way. I am the door. I am the gate. And you can circle the word “I”. We are not saved by a principle. We are not saved by a practice. We are not saved by a force. We are not saved by a formula. We are saved by a person named Jesus. He is the way to God. He is the doorway to God. He is the intersecting point between heaven and earth. He is the bridge through the enormous divide that separates God and people, and all traffic between heaven and earth has to go through Jesus. That is what Jesus is claiming. He is saying all prayer from earth to heaven has to go through Him to God. All souls that are going to be saved have to go through Jesus to get to God in heaven. All blessings that are going to come down from God come down across that bridge named Jesus to us.

Jesus, when He says He is the way, is claiming that you can’t have direct communion with God on your own. Jesus stands in the middle. Jesus is the intermediary. Jesus is the mediator.

And if you don’t really understand what He is getting at by His exclusive claims, Jesus underlines it in the second half of verse 6 when He says, “No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus absolutely shuts out every other way. He is essentially saying: If you refuse the door, there is no other way in. You are not going to get in by another religion. You are not going to get in by your sacrifice, by your goodness, by your heritage. One door. One way.

But Rich, how could He say something like this? Isn’t it enough that a person be sincere? Why should God demand faith in Jesus? Coming through Jesus in order to be saved?

Well, I want you to see in John 14:6 that Jesus not only claims to be the way, but He claims to be the truth. Let’s think about that for a moment. What does it mean that Jesus is the truth?

We need to be clear right up front that followers of Christ should never claim that there is no truth in other religions. And that everything other religions teach is false. Quite to the contrary, followers of Christ in touch with comparative religions would say that there is much in other religions that is true and has exercised a great civilizing affect on the lives and cultures of people throughout history. There is a tremendous amount of truth in Buddhism; and in the Great Moral Codes of Confucius, and even in Plato.

But getting back to the great modern preoccupation, isn’t it enough that a person is sincere? Why should God demand faith in Jesus?

Well, you know, I would say that it is necessary that a person be sincere in order to be saved. God is not going to save someone who has a veneer faith. A faith that is one millimeter deep where the person claims to have committed their life to Christ but on every decision and on every turn they run their lives on their

own. God is not going to save someone who claims to follow Jesus while consistently and in every way turns their back on what Jesus says and tramples on all of His words. Sincerity is necessary, but it is not enough.

It is a funny thing that sincerity is not enough in any area other than religion. I mean is it enough for you that the surgeon operating on your appendix or the accountant working on your taxes, or the pilot flying the 747 that you're on, or the mechanic fixing your car brakes be sincere? Will sincerity save you when you are on the operating table? Or rescue you from an audit from the IRS? Or keep the plane that you are flying in up in the air? Or save you from a car crash if your brakes have been badly repaired?

Friends, if sincerity won't save you in any other area of life, why will sincerity save you from going to hell? Think about this with me. Suppose for a few moments that there was a real God. That a real God created people in His image and He made them perfect. But that these people that He created in His image rebelled against Him and rejected God's commandments over their lives. But that God formulated a way to rescue people and He sent prophet after prophet to announce the way that folks were going to be rescued. And He spoke to the human race over thousands of years. They kept rejecting His messages and His messengers. Finally, He came to us in the person of His son. Suppose that instead of respecting His son, people took His son and hung Him on a cross. But suppose that God turned the tables and used His son's death on the cross as the sacrifice and payment for people's sins. Suppose that after that, God actually raised His son from the dead and declared His son to be Lord of the Universe.

Friends, tell me, would it make any sense for God to spend thousands of years communicating to people about the way to come to Him and allow prophet after prophet to be stoned and killed, and allow His own son to hang on a cross if you could get into heaven simply by being sincere? Why would God have bothered creating a way if a way already existed? It is necessary that you be sincere, but it is never enough. You also need to embrace the truth.

Some of you still might be saying, "But, Rich, isn't it the case that all religions basically are the same?"

This claim was most recently made by Ben Chavis, who was formally the head of the NAACP and recently converted. He became a member of the Nation of Islam. Ben Chavis changed his name to Ben Chavis Mohammed. He was a minister in the United Church of Christ. And when Ben Chavis converted, the United Church of Christ moved to strip him of his ministerial credentials. Ben Chavis protested and said, "Why can't I continue to be a Christian minister and also be a member in good standing of the Nation of Islam?" The funny thing was – he asked some Lutheran seminarians to pray for him. I wondered if anyone asked him who they should pray to, and what exactly they should pray about. That the various religions he claims to subscribe to would be blind to their differences?

I was a religion major in college. And I had to read large sections of the Hindu Vedas as well as portions of the Koran. As well as portions of the Discourses of Buddha from the Pali Canon, which are the scriptures of Buddhism. And I would say to you that anyone who claims that all religions are

basically the same is simply revealing to you that they know nothing about what the various religions actually teach. Because what will immediately strike you, if you study comparative religions as I did, is not the overwhelming similarity of all religions, but the extraordinary differences.

What you find when you look at the various religions is fundamentally contradictory perspectives. For example, Western religions claim that there is a God who is distinct from that God's creation. On the other hand, orthodox Buddhism claims there is no God. Hindus say that everything is God. You are God. The rock is God. The tree is God. The frog is God.

Well, either there is a God or there isn't. And either God is distinct from God's creation or God and creation are molded together as one. Or to use a different illustration comparing the Bible with the Koran, Christianity with Islam, the New Testament which was written a couple of decades after Jesus' death agrees with Roman and Jewish eyewitnesses that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified on a cross. It states it over and over again. Jesus was crucified on a cross. The Koran, written 600 years after the event, says that Jesus was not crucified on the cross and that some other person was crucified in his place. Now either the New Testament is telling the truth or the Koran is telling the truth. But they both could not be right. They both could not teach the same thing.

The New Testament teaches that Jesus claimed that he was the Son of God. The Koran, written 600 years later, says that when Allah asks Jesus on the last day, "Did you claim to be the Son of God," Jesus will say, "No. I never claimed to be the Son of God." Well, either Jesus claimed to be the Son of God or He didn't.

Don't all religions basically teach the same thing? The answer is absolutely not. Some religions teach one thing and some teach something else. Jesus claims to be the truth, the whole, final, ultimate truth. Up to the time of Jesus people had pictures, shadows, illustrations of the truth, but they never had the full truth blazing in front of them. They had sacrifices and temples and priests, rituals. Jesus says: I am the embodiment of the truth.

Is He or isn't He? What makes Jesus unique? Why do Christians claim that He is the only way to God?

Well, listen to what Jesus goes on to say in verse 7: "If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' Jesus answered, 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.'"

What Jesus is saying is perhaps the most stunning statement that anyone has ever made in the course of human history. Jesus says that by knowing Him, people know God. By seeing Him, people see God. In His time, Jesus' statements would have been absolutely awesome to folks in His day. To the Greeks, God was unknowable. To the Jews, God was unseeable. Jesus is saying anyone who is seeing me sees God. Anyone who has the spiritual vision to see God Almighty in me sees God.

You say, "Well, what makes Jesus so unique? Wouldn't Buddha have claimed that to see him would have been to see God and to know him was to know God?"

Absolutely not. If you ask Buddha, "Are you God?" Buddha would say that question is unanswerable. Buddha was agnostic when it came to the issue of God. If you ask Mohammed, "Are you Allah?" You had better duck because Mohammed would come out with a sword and cut your head off, literally, since to call him Allah would be great blasphemy and you would have your head cut off for being an infidel. If you ask Moses or Confucius if they were God, they would answer no they were mere men. Just as everyone in the New Testament said, "We are just men except this one great religious leader, Jesus."

Only one major religious leader in the course of human history claimed to be God. Jesus accepted people's worship. He didn't say, "No, don't worship me, worship God." He accepted people's worship.

To add to the audaciousness of Jesus' claims, Jesus said that one day the whole world would stand before Him and He would judge the world based on whether the world had listened to Him, did what He said and believed in Him. He didn't say that one day you will all stand before God and God will be your judge. He said, "One day you will all stand before me, Jesus of Nazareth, and I will judge you based on whether you believed in me." And in that judgment Jesus of Nazareth claimed that He had the exclusive right to determine whether you were going to end up eternally in heaven or if you were going to end up eternally in hell.

He also said that He alone has the right to forgive people's sins. Imagine that. Someone comes up to you or me and says, "Well, I know that Fred hurt you badly, but I want you to know that I have forgiven him." Might you not say, "What right do you have to forgive him? Fred hurt me. Fred took my car." But Jesus says: Oh, I forgot to mention, the reason why I have a right to forgive everyone for everything is because I am God. Jesus is unique because He made hundreds of claims about being God incarnate.

And, of course, Jesus is absolutely unique among the founders of any of the world's religions because no other founder of any world religion has an empty tomb. What sets Jesus apart from everyone else is that He is the only one raised from the dead. There is one great enemy that levels the playing field. That great enemy is death. A power that before whom we all must bow. But one person in all of human history did not bow to death, but instead stood up. That's Jesus.

Why should I listen to Jesus and not all the other prophets and great religious leaders who have come and gone on the face of the earth? Because He is the only one whom death couldn't beat. He is the only religious leader who has an empty tomb. People today still visit the tomb of Mohammed. We know that Moses died. We know that Confucius and Buddha died. There is just one leader who rose from the dead – Jesus.

You say, "Well, Rich, my last question is does it matter? Does it really matter what someone believes? Does it matter if I embrace Jesus or my friend embraces Jesus or my spouse embraces Jesus? Does it matter?"

You bet it matters. What a person believes has real consequences. And if you don't think that what you believe has real consequences, you tell that to the families of the people from Heaven's Gate. You tell the fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters and children that what your sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers did in California doesn't mean anything. Tell the women in Afghanistan right now who are not permitted to go out into the street, who are not allowed to have an education, who are not allowed to work, who are not allowed to shop – tell them that what someone believes like the Taliban who took over the country doesn't matter. Tell the victims of the Holocaust that what their executioners believed didn't matter. Tell the victims of Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tse Tung that what these rulers believed didn't matter. It matters. It matters if you embrace Christ, and it matters if you tell others about Him.

Jesus said He was the way to God. Jesus said He was the final, full, complete embodiment of the truth. Jesus said He was the life. That He would bring into you new life, fresh life, and eternal life. That when He invaded a person's life. It wasn't just abstract thoughts that invaded or just a set of principles that we would discuss. Jesus is the life. And apart from Jesus, you and everyone you have ever met are spiritually dead. Apart from Jesus, you and everyone else are spiritually dry. And apart from Jesus, there is no everlasting life.

Why do Christians say that Jesus is the only way to God? Because they are simply echoing the words and the life of their Lord who said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Let's pray.