



## THE TRUTH: KNOW, BELIEVE, SHARE, DEFEND

### *Is Jesus the only way?*

“The gospel is an exclusive truth, but it’s the most inclusive exclusive truth in the world.” (Tim Keller)

#### Universalism

- Universalism says that in the end, all people will be saved and go to heaven.
  - Origen (185-253 AD) was one of the first people in church history to teach universalism – \_\_\_\_\_ – the restoration of all things. Origen was condemned as a \_\_\_\_\_ by the Second Council of Constantinople in 553 AD.
  - Biblical Critique: Many passages in the Bible speak directly about \_\_\_\_\_ and punishment (Matthew 25:41-46, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 21:8).
  - Philosophical Critique: Human beings have a built-in longing for \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pluralism

- Pluralism says that all religions essentially have the same \_\_\_\_\_ teaching, the same spiritual value, and the same potential for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are both inherently pluralistic. John Hick is one of the scholars who promoted pluralism in the United States.
  - Biblical Critique: The Bible consistently contrasts the one, true \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nations (Exodus 22:20, Acts 17:16-23).
  - Philosophical Critique: The more you study world religions, the more you see the \_\_\_\_\_ in their cosmology, anthropology, epistemology, morality, soteriology, and eschatology.

## Inclusivism

- Inclusivism says that everyone who goes to heaven goes because of \_\_\_\_\_, but conscious \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus is not necessary to be saved.
  - Evangelical scholars like Clark Pinnock have talked about “\_\_\_\_\_ evangelism,” and Catholic scholars like Carl Rahner have talked about “\_\_\_\_\_ Christianity.” Christian mystics often fall into this category.
  - Biblical Critique: Many verses speak about the necessity of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of death (Romans 10:13-15, Hebrews 9:27).
  - Philosophical Critique: Inclusivism is really an \_\_\_\_\_ form of pluralism – why aren’t Christians really anonymous pagans (Muslims, Buddhists, etc)?

## Exclusivism

- Exclusivism says that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ way for anyone to be saved, and \_\_\_\_\_ those who put their faith in Jesus will be saved.
  - This has been the traditional, \_\_\_\_\_ position throughout redemptive history (Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jesus, Peter, Paul, John ... the church fathers, the Scholastics, the Reformers, the Puritans).
  - Biblical Support: The New Testament presents Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_ able to give eternal life (John 1:1-2, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-4, Revelation 1:5 ... John 3:16ff, 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5, Revelation 20:10-15).
  - Evangelistic Application: Evangelism and missions are absolute \_\_\_\_\_ if the lost are to be saved (Romans 10:13-15).