



## 1. Opposition to Exclusivity & The Nature of Truth

A.

B.

1)

2)

3)

4)

a)

b)

## 2. Truth & Sincerity

A.

B.

## 3. So Many Religions

A.

B.

1)

a)

b)

2)

a)

b)

c)

C.

1)

2)

**4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?**

**A.**

**B.**

**1)**

**2)**

**C.**

**1)**

**2)**

**D.**

**1)**

**2)**

**5. How Many Will Be Saved?**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

**D.**

**6. Exclusivity & Biblical Inclusivity**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

**D.**



# *Apologetics*

Compass Night 2019

# 1. Opposition to Exclusivity & the Nature of Truth

## A. Various Objections:

- “All Religions are Basically the Same”
- “All Roads Lead to Heaven”
- “Billions of Non-Christians Can’t Be Lost?”
- “God Can’t Condemn Those Who Haven’t Heard?”
- “Christianity Can’t be the ONLY Way!”





# 1. Opposition to Exclusivity & the Nature of Truth

## B. The Nature of Truth

1) Claims That Correspond with Reality

2) Reality is Objective (no: “My Truth”)

- *Preferences = Claims About My Subjective Feelings*
- *Truth = Claims About Objective Realities*



# 1. Opposition to Exclusivity & the Nature of Truth

## B. The Nature of Truth

### 3) Conflicting Truth Claim Cannot Both be True

- There is a God; *There is No God*
- Bible = God's Revelation; *Bible ≠ God's Revelation*
- Jesus = God; *Jesus ≠ God*
- Trust Christ = Saved; *Trust Christ ≠ Not Saved*



# 1. Opposition to Exclusivity & the Nature of Truth

## B. The Nature of Truth

### 4) Biblical Claims:

*John 14:6*

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

*Acts 4:12*

*There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*



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# 1. Opposition to Exclusivity & the Nature of Truth

## B. The Nature of Truth

### 4) Biblical Claims:

*John 3:18*

*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 3:36*

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

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# **1. Opposition to Exclusivity & the Nature of Truth**

## **B. The Nature of Truth**

### **4) Biblical Claims:**

#### **a) Absolute**

- Objective Reality**

- Actually Forgiven/Saved by Christ**

#### **b) Exclusive**

- Forgiven/Saved ONLY by Christ**

- The Inverse is False**

- Not Saved without Christ**

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## **2. Truth & Sincerity**

### **A. Belief Does Not Change Fact**

- **No Matter How Ardent or Strong Your Belief Is**
- **Options to “Believe” Not Equally Beneficial**













A photograph of four scuba diving tanks lined up on a wooden pier. Each tank is equipped with a black BCD and a yellow air line. The tanks are labeled with humorous text. In the background, there are several kayaks (orange, yellow, and green) and the hulls of sailboats on the water.

**Tear Gas**

**Ice Tea**

**Hand Soap**

**Oxygen**





















## 2. Truth & Sincerity

### B. Trust is Only as Good as What You Put it In

- Biblical Claim

*John 11:25–26*

*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.  
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.  
Do you believe this?”*



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## 2. Truth & Sincerity

### B. Trust is Only as Good as What You Put it In

- Biblical Claim

*1 Corinthians 15:17*

*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*



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### **3. So Many Religions**

#### **A. Different Religions Make Conflicting Assertions**

- **About God**

- **Bible: God is a Personal Triune Being**

- **Christian Science: God is an Impersonal Force**

- **About Jesus:**

- **Bible: Jesus is the Divine Messiah**

- **JWs: Jesus is Michael, a Created Archangel**



### **3. So Many Religions**

#### **A. Different Religions Make Conflicting Assertions**

- **About Christ's Work:**

- **Bible: Jesus Crucified & Raised for Our Sins**

- **Islam: Jesus was not Crucified nor Resurrected**

- **About Salvation:**

- **Bible: Saved by Faith in Christ's Finished Work**

- **Hinduism: Stockpile Good Karma to End Cycle of Reincarnation; Absorbed into "God"**





### 3. So Many Religions

#### B. Two-Types of Religion

##### 1) “Humanly”-Constructed Religions

##### a) People’s Speculation About God, Afterlife, etc.

*Colossians 2:23*

*These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.*



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### 3. So Many Religions

#### B. Two-Types of Religion

- 1) “Humanly”-Constructed Religions
- b) Aided by God’s Spiritual Enemies

*Leviticus 17:7*

*So they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices to goat demons, after whom they whore.*



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### 3. So Many Religions

#### B. Two-Types of Religion

- 1) “Humanly”-Constructed Religions
- b) Aided by God’s Spiritual Enemies

*1 Timothy 4:1*

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons*



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### 3. So Many Religions

#### B. Two-Types of Religion

- 1) “Humanly”-Constructed Religions
- b) Aided by God’s Spiritual Enemies

*Galatians 3:1*

*O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?*



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### 3. So Many Religions

#### B. Two-Types of Religion

- 1) “Humanly”-Constructed Religions
- b) Aided by God’s Spiritual Enemies

*2 Corinthians 4:4*

*In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*



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### 3. So Many Religions

#### B. Two-Types of Religion

##### 2) Divinely Reveled Religion

##### a) God's Thoughts Disclosed

*“Disclosing that which would otherwise be unknown”*

**Colossians 2:23**

*These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.*

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### **3. So Many Religions**

#### **B. Two-Types of Religion**

##### **2) Divinely Reveled Religion**

**b) Inscribed in Words**

**c) Authenticated by Predictive Prophecy**



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### 3. So Many Religions

#### C. “Humanly”-Constructed Religions Echo Some Truth

##### 1) True Assertions Reflect Natural Revelation

- *Learned from Creation & Conscience*

##### 2) Satan’s Agenda is Advanced by Echoing Some Truth

#### **2 Corinthians 11:13–15**

*such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.*





## 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

### A. All Are Sinners by Birth

*Psalm 51:5*

*I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

*Psalm 58:3*

*The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.*

*Ephesians 2:3*

*among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

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## 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

### B. All the Morally Cognizant are Sinners by Choice

#### 1) Biblical Descriptions of “Morally Cognizant”

*Genesis 2:9*

*The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

*Genesis 3:7*

*the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.  
And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*



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# 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

## B. All the Morally Cognizant are Sinners by Choice

### 1) Biblical Descriptions of “Morally Cognizant”

*Isaiah 7:16*

*before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good,  
the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.*



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## 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

### B. All the Morally Cognizant are Sinners by Choice

#### 2) Moral Choices Judged by Amount of Knowledge

*Luke 10:12-13*

*I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes."*



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# 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

## B. All the Morally Cognizant are Sinners by Choice

### 2) Moral Choices Judged by Amount of Knowledge

*James 3:1*

*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*



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# 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

## B. All the Morally Cognizant are Sinners by Choice

### 2) Moral Choices Judged by Amount of Knowledge

*Luke 12:47–48*

*And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.*



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## 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

### C. “All” Have Knowledge

#### 1) By Natural Revelation

*Romans 2:14–16*

*when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.*



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## 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

### C. “All” Have Knowledge

#### 2) And Are Without Excuse

*Romans 1:20–21*

*his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*



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## 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

### C. “All” Have Knowledge

#### 2) And Are Without Excuse

*Proverbs 24:12*

*If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?*



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## 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

### D. Morally Cognizant vs. Incapable of Faith

#### 1) Young Children

*Deuteronomy 1:39*

*And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey, and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.*



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## 4. What About Those Who Never Hear the Gospel?

### D. Morally Cognizant vs. Incapable of Faith

#### 2) Mentally Incapacitated

*Nehemiah 8:2*

*So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard*



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## 5. How Many Will Be Saved?

### A. Jesus said “Few”

*Luke 13:23–24*

*And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?”  
And he said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*

*Matthew 7:13–14*

*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

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## 5. How Many Will Be Saved?

### B. None are Deserving

*Romans 3:9–12*

*What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”*



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## 5. How Many Will Be Saved?

### C. God's Grace is God's to Give

*Matthew 20:11–15*

*And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'*

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## 5. How Many Will Be Saved?

### C. God's Grace is God's to Give

*Romans 9:14–15, 18-20*

*What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?"*

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## 5. How Many Will Be Saved?

### D. Focus on the Grace of Grace

- Can't Focus on Entitlement
  - Which is a fallacy
- Wrong Question: "Why Doesn't God Save Everyone?"
- Right Question: "Why Would God Save Anyone?"

*Ephesians 2:7–8*

*...show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God*

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## 6. Exclusivity & Biblical Inclusivity

### A. Yes, the Means of Salvation is Exclusive

- Only One Way
- Motivating “Missions” for Centuries

*Romans 10:14–15*

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*



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## 6. Exclusivity & Biblical Inclusivity

### B. But “Few” Is Not “Tiny”

*Genesis 22:17–18*

*I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed*



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## 6. Exclusivity & Biblical Inclusivity

### C. But The Call Is Inclusive

*Matthew 28:19*

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*



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## 6. Exclusivity & Biblical Inclusivity

### C. But The Call Is Inclusive

*Luke 14:21–23*

*So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'*

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## 6. Exclusivity & Biblical Inclusivity

### D. But The Multitude is Diverse

*Revelation 7:9*

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands*



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## 6. Exclusivity & Biblical Inclusivity

### D. But The Multitude is Diverse

*1 Corinthians 1:26*

*For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.*



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