

# ***Can There Be Just One Religion?***

## **Exclusivity, Tolerance, and Christianity**

### ***I. Can all religions be true?***

- A. Someone might say, “No religion is superior to other religions. No point of view is superior to other points of views.” What’s the problem with that statement?
- B. What about the story of the blind man and the elephant?
  - a. Several blind men were able to touch an elephant, feeling different parts.
    - i. One touched the trunk... long and bendy like a snake
    - ii. One touched the leg... round like a tree trunk
    - iii. One touched the side... hard and flat like a wall
  - b. The idea is that none of the men know the full picture. So that’s the same way with religions. All religions have some of the truth, but not all of it. It takes all the religions together to get the full truth.
  - c. How could one responds to this?

### ***II. Isn’t it arrogant to say your view is true?***

- A. Professor of Religion, John Hick, argues that all cultures have religious experience. So it’s arrogant to claim that one religion or religious experience is right and others are wrong.
- B. This seems to make sense. How could a person (Christian or otherwise) respond?

### ***III. Shouldn’t we be tolerant of other people’s religious views? It’s intolerant to say someone’s view is wrong.***

- A. Again, this resonates with many people in our culture today. But what’s the peculiar thing about this statement?

### ***IV. Religion should be kept private.***

- A. Some argue that religion is fine, but should be kept private and out of the public square. They make the case that religious views should not be mentioned in schools, that all public funding should not be swayed by any religious beliefs of any kind.
- B. Why is this a curious position?

### ***V. What is truth anyway?***

- A. Postmodernism generally holds the view that there is no absolute truth. And a lesser form of it would argue that even if there was, you couldn’t know it.
- B. Based upon all our discussions, how could one respond?

### ***VI. Tactics about discussing truth, tolerance, and exclusivity.***

- A. Having these insights about these topics is only part of the goal. The other part is how to talk about them.
- B. Remember our 3 questions from last time:
  - a. What do you mean by that?
  - b. How did you come to that conclusion?
  - c. Have you ever considered...?