

Series - The Trouble with Christianity

Exclusivity: How can there be only one true religion?

1 John 4:1-11 · March 30, 2008 · St. Andrew's Anglican Church

Intro - The problem of religion: Exclusive truth claims lead to _____.

1. Strategy #1 – _____ (or eliminate) religion.

1 John 4:1 - ... do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2. Strategy #2 – _____ religion to the private realm.

Two false assumptions:

- **No one can make absolute truth claims.**

"The Blind men of Industan" and Bp. Lesslie Newbiggin's response

- **It is possible to keep religion private.**

1 John 4:5 - They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

3. Strategy #3 – Embrace the _____ of Christianity.

- **The _____ of Jesus' salvation**

- **The _____ of Jesus' salvation**

1 John 4:2 - This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God...

"The Biblical vision is unique. That is why when some say there is salvation in other faiths too, I ask them: 'What salvation are you talking about?' No faith holds out a promise of eternal salvation for the world – the ordinary world that the cross and resurrection of Jesus do."

- Vinoth Ramachandra

- **The _____ of Jesus' salvation**

1 John 4:8-10 - ... God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

BLANKS: Introduction: DIVISION 1. WEAKEN 2. RESTRICT 3. UNIQUENESS, ORIGIN, PURPOSE, METHOD.

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Translation key: All verses are from the New International Version