



Faith in Christ: Is It Necessary? • Part 3

Lesson 9

"There couldn't possibly be one way to God...I am a Christian who believes there are certainly many more paths to God other than Christianity—so—I am a freethinking Christian who believes that—who believes in my way but I don't believe it is the only way with 6 billion people here on the planet." ~Oprah Winfrey, New Age Spiritualist

"The conviction is growing in evangelical circles that God is not planning to cast into hell the majority of the race who, through no fault of their own, have had no opportunity to become Christians. There are others, of course, who still wish to assert that is what will happen. For them, the love of God is not higher than, but on a level with God's freedom and wrath."

~Clark Pinnock, Evangelical Theologian

🕒 **What Is This Series All About?** Three Questions in One: *Is Jesus the **only** way to salvation?*

Q 1 Will anyone experience eternal, conscious torment under God's wrath in hell?

Q 2 Is the work of Jesus necessary for salvation?

Q 3 Is conscious **FAITH** in Jesus necessary for salvation?

Inclusivism says: **NO!** Those who have never heard of Jesus, but sincerely respond in faith to God based on the light they have will be saved on the basis of the work of Jesus.

Two Axioms Drive Inclusivists

Axiom 1 The **LOVE** of God for all people and His desire for universal salvation.

- Some of the **passages** used by inclusivists to support the axiom that God desires that all people without exception have access to salvation and be saved. *John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9*
- Some of the **problems** with the inclusivist axiom that God's love is the highest value and He wills that all people without exception have access to salvation and be saved.
- *Maintain the Biblical Tension between God's Compassion Being without **EXCEPTION**, and God's Choice Being without **DISTINCTION**.*

Axiom 2 The **NECESSITY** and finality of Jesus Christ for salvation. *Acts 4:12; John 14:6*

*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men **by which** we must be saved."* Acts 4:12
*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one** comes to the Father **but through** Me.* John 14:6

- *Maintain the Biblical Tension of the **AUTHORITY** to save and the **IDENTITY** of the Savior in **Acts 3:6** and **Acts 3:16; 4:10, 18**.*

*The whole point of the prohibition in Acts 4:18 is not just the **AUTHORITY** of the Name but also the **ACTUAL** preaching of the Name of Jesus Christ!*

- *Maintain the Biblical Tension of the **NECESSITY** of Jesus Christ and the **KNOWLEDGE** of Jesus Christ in **John 14:6** and **John 17:3**.*

To say there is Good News for unevangelized that does not include the preaching of the Person and work of Jesus Christ is another Gospel—a different Gospel with a wider hope—that makes salvation available to people who have never even heard of Jesus Christ!
1Corinthians 15:1-11; Galatians 1:6-12

ONLY ONE CONCLUSION

The Two Axioms of Inclusivism Are Inadequate for Determining the Destiny of the Those Who Have Never Heard.

1. Love is not the overriding characteristic of God's character, holiness is. All that God is and all that He does is pure, right, just, and compassionate at the same time, even if we cannot understand it or agree with it.
2. While God shows compassion to all His creation (unsaved and saved, people and animals), He does not have to choose to save all who are lost to be loving or just.
3. The Lord Jesus Christ is the one Mediator and only divine means of saving sinners, so that the gospel of Christ must be preached to the lost and they must repent and believe in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved.
4. Inclusivism's two axioms not only distort biblical truth, they are also too limited to determine the destiny of those who have never heard. For example, there is no mention of...
 - ☑ God's sovereign grace and mercy in salvation. (See Ephesians 1 and Romans 9–11)
 - ☑ Humanity's radically sinful nature and willful rebellion against their Creator. (See Ephesians 2 and Romans 1–3)
 - ☑ Every person's responsibility to respond to the light they do have by glorifying their Creator and giving Him thanks for who He is and all that He has done with their heart, mind, body, and soul. (See Romans 1–3)