

Just Thinking Apologetics

Do all religious roads lead to God? I have been in many discussions where individuals have made that claim. The affirmative answer to this question is referred to as religious pluralism. Religious pluralism, according to David Clark, can be defined as: “*Any (or perhaps all) religions lead to God or salvation. Following any religious path enables believers to reach the religious goal*”. Paul Copan states, that according to religious pluralism, “All religions are equally true and roughly say the same thing.”

On the flip side of the coin are those who maintain the view of exclusivism. Again, according to Clark, “exclusivism says: Only one true religion leads to God. Attaining the spiritual goal requires a believer to find and follow the one true faith, for other religious paths will not lead to the spiritual goal.”

On one hand, pluralist’s maintain that salvation can be achieved by following numerous paths, because all paths eventually lead to God. On this view God is sometimes referred to as “the One” or the “Divine Reality”. On the other hand, exclusivist would deny the concept of pluralism. Religious pluralism and Exclusivism are two opposing views making different truth claims.

Over the following weeks we will consider both views to see which emerges as the most logical view. Is one claim more consistent than the other, this is what I would like to examine? There will be two apologetic talks this week. The first will be Sunday at 6:00 on *The Fine Tuning of the Universe* and the second will be on Wednesday night around 7:00 on *Religious Pluralism verses Christian Exclusivism*.