

Just Thinking Apologetics

Is it intolerant to claim that salvation is found only in Jesus? Jesus states in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Again, Peter and John say in Acts 4:2, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Both of these statements are truth claims. The religious pluralist makes a truth claim when she states, "All roads lead to God." What we have here are competing truth claims.

Competing truth claims are either true, false or they can all be wrong. There can never be two opposing truth claims, whereby both are true. If two competing truth claims exist, either one is true or the other false, or it is possible that both claims could be false. Jesus cannot be the way (exclusive) or not the way at the same time, as this would violate the law of noncontradiction (A cannot equal A and also non-A). The law of the excluded middle (either A or non-A) shows that there is no middle position that is logically possible. In other words, Jesus is either the way to salvation (exclusive) or he is not.

Our culture today is quick to brand others intolerant if disagreement exists, but it is often they who fail to tolerate the views of those they disagree with. Kenneth Samples asks, "How can it be religiously intolerant to state what is logically necessary and obvious?" What needs to take place is discussion (arguments) to determine what view best matches (reality) with what we know to be true. Calling people names because they believe a particular view is itself the mark of intolerance.