

Deep Dive: Only One True Hope For All?

INTRODUCTION: EXCLUSIVISM DOES RAISE QUESTIONS

Who do you find EASY to talk about Jesus with / Who do you find HARD?

What Real-Life Questions Does the Exclusivity of the Gospel Raise for your Friends and Family?

Two Basic Principles

- *Knowing how People KNOW things, helps us to understand THEIR questions.*
- *Knowing the Deity of Jesus Christ helps us to answer those questions.*

1. WHEN SHARING THE TRUTH: IT HELPS TO KNOW HOW KNOWING WORKS (IN GENERAL).

The Three Perspectives of 'Knowing'.

The Existential: 'How You Experience the World'

The Situational: 'What you Observe in the World'

The Normative: 'What is True about the World'

2. WHEN SHARING THE TRUTH: IT HELPS TO KNOW HOW PEOPLE THINK (IN PARTICULAR)

Sub-Saharan African?

- *Religion is Public & Universal Good.*
 - *Normative = Christian (& Culture)*
 - *Existential = Spiritual*
 - *Situational =*

Muslim?

- *Religion is ... Public & Universal Good.*
 - *Normative = God*
 - *Existential = Spiritual & Communal.*
 - *Situational =*

Hindu?

- *Religion is ... Public & Cultural.*
 - *Normative = "Spiritual" Worldview (Monistic)*
 - *Existential = Spiritual & fearful (power/fear).*
 - *Situational =*

Buddhist?

- *Religion is ... Public & Cultural.*
 - *Normative = "Spiritual Worldview (Monistic)"*
 - *Existential = Spiritual & fearful (power / fear).*
 - *Situational =*

Gen Z & Millennial Westerners?

- Religion is ...
 - Normative =
 - Existential =
 - Situational =

Nominal Catholic? (All generations)

- Religion is ... Private & Familial
 - Normative = 'God' / 'Family' / 'Culture'.
 - Existential = Secular & materialistic.
 - Situational =

Nominal Protestant? (Gen X & Boomer)

- Religion is ... A Private Individualistic Matter
 - Normative = 'Consistent Cultural Worldview'.
 - Existential = Secular & materialistic.
 - Situational =

Scientific Rationalist?

- Religion is ... Irrational.
 - Normative = Materialist Empiricism
 - Existential = Secular & individualistic
 - Situational =

Take-Away: Don't Be Afraid. ASK QUESTIONS!
KNOW & APPRECIATE YOUR FRIENDS!

3. MARK'S GOSPEL: BE CLEAR ON CHRIST'S INCARNATE DEITY

3.1. The NT's Christology of "Monotheistic Identity" (R. Bauckham)

Three Christological Approaches: Ontic, Functional & Identity

- *Ontic: Logos was God. The very morphé of God. I am.*
- *Functional: Does the works of Father. Judges. Saves. Does God things.*
- *Identity: Christ's identity is 100% located within the identity of Yahweh.*

3.2. The OT's conception of Deity

Yahweh (YHWH) 'THE LORD' is:

- *The sole creator (all things are from Him)*
- *The sole ruler (all things are under Him)*
- *The sole object of worship. (all things are toward Him)*

3.3. Dive Deep! What do these Passages say about Jesus's Identity?

Mark 1:1-5 Who does John the Baptist Prepare the Way For?

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— ³ "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' " ⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Mark 2:1-7 Who Forgives the Paralyzed man?

¹ A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming!

Mark 2:18-20 Who is the Bridegroom?

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. ²⁰ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

Mark 5:21-43 Who Raises the Dead and Fulfills God's Covenant promises?

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. ³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹ "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" ³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." ³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" ³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." ³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

3.4. The Crux of the Identity Issue: Mark 8:27-33 – Who Do You Say I am?

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” ³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

3.5. Dive DEEPER! What do these Passages say about God’s Identity?

Mark 9:2-8 – Moses, Elijah & The True Identity of Jesus is Revealed.

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Mark 9:30-32 – The True Identity of God is Revealed in Jesus Christ.

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

Mark 10:32-45 The True Identity of God is Revealed in Jesus Christ.

³³ “We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

Mark 15 – The True Character & Nature of God is Revealed at the Cross.

- Defeated by Army Battalion = covenant judgement (Deut 28:25)
- Mockery = covenant judgement (Deut. 28:37).
- Crucifixion = hanging on a tree = covenantal judgement. (Deut. 21).
- Darkness at Noon (Deut. 28:29)

Matthew 15:39 – The Centurion Sees

³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Mark 1:3 “ ‘Prepare the way for THE LORD, make straight paths for HIM.’ ”

4. HOW CHRIST’S DEITY ANSWERS OUR QUESTIONS

5. FINALLY: APPRECIATE THAT “YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT” PROCLAIM!