

# An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

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WEEK 5

## A RESPONSE TO RELIGIOUS PLURALISM, PART 2

### A. *What is religious pluralism?*

1. descriptive: pluralism as an empirical fact
2. prescriptive: pluralism as a philosophical norm

#### Logic applied to worldview thinking:

<b>EITHER:</b>		<b>OR:</b>	
Something exists	(reality)	Nothing exists	(illusion)
God exists	(theism)	God does not exist	(atheism)
One God	(monotheism)	Many gods	(polytheism)
God is personal	(theism)	God is impersonal	(pantheism)
Christ is God	(Christianity)	Christ is not God	(everything else)
Jesus was crucified	(Christianity)	Jesus was not crucified	(Islam)
Jesus rose from the dead	(Christianity)	Jesus did not rise from the dead	(Judaism)

### B. *What is the basic pluralist argument?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- Golden Rule: Do unto others . . .
- Negative Golden Rule: Don't do unto others . . .

RESPONSE:

2.

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	→			
				<i>Hinduism</i>
		<b>P</b>		
	→	<b>H</b>		<i>Taoism</i>
		<b>E</b>		
		<b>N</b>		<i>Islam</i>
<b>the "Real" or "Ultimate"</b>	→	<b>O</b>		
<b>("God")</b>		<b>N</b>		<i>Christianity</i>
		<b>E</b>		
	→	<b>M</b>		<i>Judaism</i>
		<b>A</b>		
				<i>Buddhism</i>
	→			
<i>noumenal realm</i>				<i>phenomenal realm</i>
<i>"thing-in-itself"</i>				<i>"thing as it appears"</i>
<i>inaccessible reality</i>				<i>accessible perception</i>

RESPONSE:

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESPONSE:**

**CONCLUSION:** DOES THIS MATTER FOR US?

**SO HOW WILL YOU ANSWER?**

*"There are so many religions, how can you say **yours** is the truth?"*

**BY LAYING OUT THE LOGICAL OPTIONS:**

1. **none are true**

2. **all are true**

3. **some are true**

4. **one is true**