

An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

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“Opposites cannot both be true.”

- The Law of Non-Contradiction
- God and logic
- Religious pluralism

RECALL: THREE BASIC USES OF REASON FOR APOLOGETICS

- to demonstrate the “preambles of faith” (existence of God, objectivity of history, etc.)
- to analyze philosophy in order to reveal corresponding concepts in Christian faith.
- to oppose illogical attacks against revelation, **INCLUDING EXCLUSIVISM:**
 - We are commanded to worship the one true God alone and to abstain from idolatry (Exod. 20:3-6, Lev. 19:4, Ps. 16:4, Isa. 42:17, Mic. 5:13-15).
 - There is only one God and He reserves the right to receive proper worship from His creatures and to condemn those who reject Him and His commands (see Gen. chs. 6-8 and 19; 2 Kings 17:29-36 and Jer. 25:6-11).
 - The New Testament teaches explicitly that Jesus Christ is the one true God incarnate and that exclusive salvation belongs to Him (John 1:14; Rev. 7:10).
 - Jesus claimed that only those who explicitly put their trust in Him would see eternal life (John 5:24, 17:3, Matt. 11:27, Luke 12:8-9), and the message preached by the apostles was one of exclusive salvation in Christ alone (Acts 2:38, 4:12, 10:43, 16:31, 17:31, 26:18).
 - Only the gospel has the power to save (Rom. 1:16), the heathen are condemned by their suppression of the light of general revelation (1:18ff), the Jews are condemned by their disobedience to the Law (2:12-13), Jew and Gentile alike are guilty before God and can only find salvation through explicit faith in His Son (3:10-24, 6:23, 10:9ff).
 - Those without Christ are without hope (Eph. 2:12), Christ Himself will execute the vengeance of God on those who do not obey the gospel (2 Thess. 1:8-9), and that Christ is the only Mediator between God and man (1 Tim 1:17, 2:5). Moreover, God has made His final and full revelation in Christ (Heb. 1:1-2), Christ alone is the author of eternal salvation (5:9), that he who denies Christ is a liar devoid of a saving relationship with God (1 John 2:22-23, 5:12), and that the eternal Lake of Fire awaits those whose names are not written in the Book of Life (Rev. 20:15).

I. The Law of Non-Contradiction

- _____

- “The same attribute cannot at the same time belong and not belong to the same subject in the same respect.” *Aristotle*

“Anyone who denies the law of non-contradiction should be beaten and burned until he admits that to be beaten is not the same as not to be beaten, and to be burned is not the same as not to be burned.”

- LNC cannot be denied without being affirmed

II. Logic and God: *Does logic apply to God?*

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

- Logic flows from the Being of God
- Therefore, nonsensical statements about Him must be false
- Trinitarian formula based upon harmonizing reason / revelation

• *What about so-called “both/and” (Eastern) logic?*

RESPONSE TO “EASTERN” LOGIC:

- _____
- _____
- _____

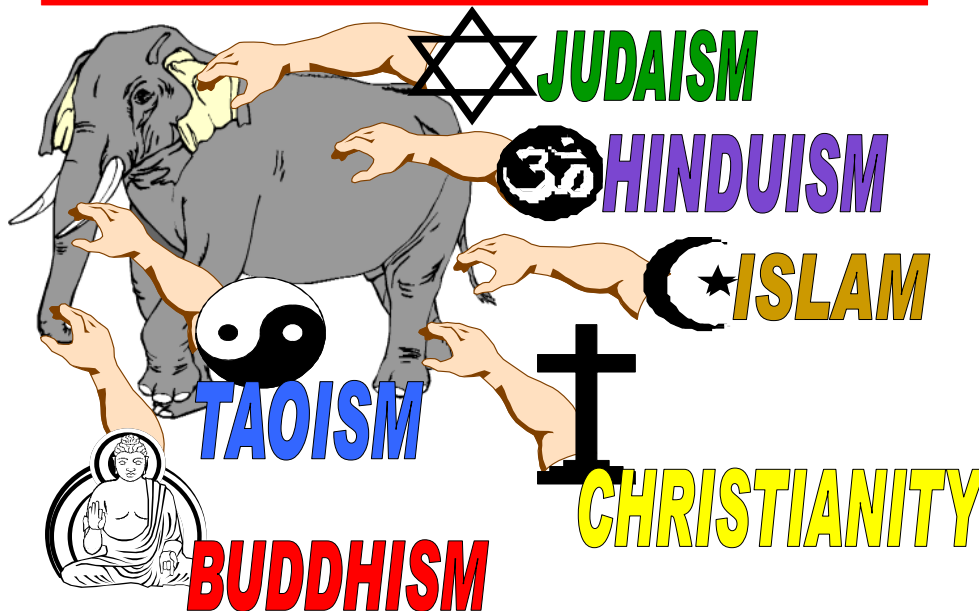
III. Logic and Religious pluralism

A. What is religious pluralism?

1. _____

2. _____

No Religion is THE Truth!



Logic applied to worldview thinking:

EITHER:		OR:	
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? (John Hick)

1. _____
 - It is illegitimate to reduce all religions to what they have in common, and then pronounce that they are all really the same.
 - The essential truths about a religion are not their moral teachings but their metaphysical teachings.

2. _____
 - Religious pluralism must assume either **agnosticism** or **imperialism** as its epistemology.
 - a. **agnosticism**: "no one really knows the ultimate truth about God."
 - Self-defeating: How does he know that no one knows the truth about God unless he presumes to know the truth about God? Can you look at a series of geometric shapes and say, "None of those is a circle," unless you knew already what a circle was?
 - b. **imperialism**: "all the adherents to all the world's religions are wrong. None of them have the full picture. They are all partial truths at best."
 - The person making such a claim is somehow not limited by such narrow-minded bigotry. He sees the whole picture. And that whole picture is that ultimate reality (God) is really what ALL of the world's religions are saying when you combine all their similarities and excise all their differences. It's the assumption that one sees the whole picture while everyone else only sees a part.
 - See Appendix F

3. _____

CONCLUSION:

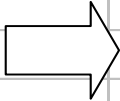
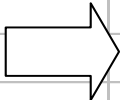
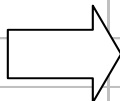



HOW DO YOU ANSWER THIS???

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?

Appendix F: Philosophical Basis of Religious Pluralism

				
				<i>Hinduism</i>
		P		
		H		<i>Taoism</i>
		E		
		N		<i>Islam</i>
the "Real" or "Ultimate" ("God")		O		
		N		<i>Christianity</i>
		E		
		M		<i>Judaism</i>
		A		
				<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>