

2. EXCLUSIVITY

Today's Verses:

John 14:6
Revelation 21:3

John 17:3
Revelation 21:22
Genesis 18:25

Matthew 7:21
1 Peter 5:5

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INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 1:

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jesus' statement is pretty exclusive and is considered to be one of the most controversial statements He made; even in the culture of His day. In Rome you were allowed to worship any God you wanted as long as you also worshipped Caesar; Christians and Jews said "No, we will worship God alone." It is why Rome labeled Christians as Atheists, because Romans would worship *all* the other gods and Christians would only worship one.

DISCUSSION

What is the difference between arrogance and humility?

Give some examples of each characteristic and what it looks like in a person.

EXPLANATION – READ JOHN 14:6

Have you ever met someone who complained about Christianity's exclusivity?

What did they say and how did you respond?

APPLICATION

Do you view Jesus as being exclusive or inclusive?

How or why is that what you think?

How does Jesus save from wrath and make us pure?

Which one do you think is harder, being saved or being made pure?

MISSION

How can we be an inviting people while still pointing to Jesus as the way into relationship with God?

How does trusting Jesus actually open us up to be more liberal in our thinking about the truth?

How does trusting Jesus make us more focused in our thinking about the truth?

HOMEWORK

Read Chapter 1 in the Reason for God.