

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP TEACHING AND TRAINING

WHY IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

Jesus told His followers, “No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Jn. 14:6). Other religious figures have taught that there are alternative ways to God, and our modern culture accepts (as have many earlier societies) many different theories about reaching God. So, why did Jesus make such a claim of exclusivity?

Before we answer that question, we must first realize that we are separated from God because of sin. None of us can live a perfect life because we all have sinned (Romans 3:23). Sin has only one result: death (Romans 6:23). Sin cannot be erased by good morals, right living, or heightened awareness.

When God came to earth as a human being, in the form of the man we call Jesus, He came to do more than teach the world how to love and live better. He also came to save us from the penalty for our sins. Because Jesus was human yet never sinned, He satisfied God’s requirements and became the sacrifice necessary to wipe out the penalty for sin for each of us. He offered His life in exchange for ours. Only His blood, the sacrifice of His perfect life, was pure enough to remove our death penalty. No other person or religion can offer that sacrifice.

Jesus’ last words before He died were “It is finished!” (John 19:30). In this statement He wasn’t proclaiming the end of His life on earth. He was also proclaiming the end of sin’s hold on all who would believe. Jesus died, not because He was weak or unable to avoid death, but to make a way back to God for fallen humanity.

Had Jesus’ story ended with His death, death would still rule us all because it would have ruled Him. But on the third day, Jesus conquered death by coming back to life and rising from the grave, defeating the power of sin once and for all (Hebrews 9:26). Sin can no longer separate any of God’s children from Him when they choose to have faith in Jesus.

Any suggested way to God, based on anything other than the sacrifice of Jesus, is simply not powerful enough to take care of our sin. Only the gracious gift of Jesus can do that.

Recommended resources: *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell (Tyndale House, 1980); *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel (Zondervan, 1998).