

The Reason for God
Belief in an Age of Skepticism
“How Could There Be Just One True Religion?”
1 John 4:1-10 (Pew Bible Page 863)

ONE MAJOR OBJECTION TO CHRISTIANITY IS THE
EXCLUSIVE CLAIM OF TRUTH

THE NON-BELIEVING SECULAR WORLD...

1. Believes religion will one day DISAPPEAR
“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1

Reality: The Kingdom of God is exploding
2. Tries to confine religion to the PRIVATE REALM
“They are from the world and they speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.” 1 John 4:5
3. Teaches that all religions are EQUALLY VALID PATHS TO GOD
“Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God...”
1 John 4:2

CLARIFYING QUESTION: WHAT IS RELIGION?

1. It is not a set of BELIEFS
2. It is a set of answers to LIFE'S BIQ QUESTIONS

HOW IS CHRISTIANITY DIFFERENT?

1. The **ORIGIN** of Jesus' Salvation

"...that Jesus Christ has come...from God..." 1 John 4:2

The Good News is Emmanuel: **GOD WITH US**

2. The **PURPOSE** of Jesus' Salvation

"Jesus Christ has come in the flesh..." 1 John 4:2

Transformation and Restoration: **HEAR AND NOW**

3. The **METHOD** of Jesus' Salvation

"This is love: not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10

* Not by works: **PERFORMANCE - RELIGION**

* Not by natural design: **SECULAR HUMANIST**

* Jesus' Method of Salvation: **THE GRACE OF THE GOSPEL**

Followers of Jesus accept the grace of God & like Jesus...

* Offer **HUMBLE SERVICE**

* Reconciling behaviors like **FORGIVENESS AND PEACE**

* Love those who are **DIFFERENT**

*"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*
John 14:6