

Is Christianity Too Narrow?

The Big Seven, part 4
Pastor Bob Johnson, May 19th, 2019

The “Roman Road”:

(Romans 1:20, 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9, 12:2)

Roman Road Rationale:

1. Arrive by _____

(Romans 3:28, 4:25, 5:1, Romans 9:30)

2. Access by _____

(Romans 5:19, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

3. Attempt by _____

(Romans 9:31-33)

Christians	31%	grace thru faith	Heaven
Muslims	24%	“Five Pillars”	Paradise
Hindus	15%	“Four Paths”	Moksha
Buddhism	7%	“Eight Paths”	Nirvana
Judaism	0.2%	“613 Laws”	Mixed

What about Pango Pango?

(Acts 17:26-27, Jeremiah 29:13, Hebrews 11:6,)

This Week’s Discussion Guide:

Welcome to week 4 of our spring small group season! It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks. This small group season will be for 7 weeks and wrap up the week of June 9th. This week and the next three weeks, we are discussing some insights from our current series “The Big Seven”.

May God stretch, encourage and equip us as we discuss these questions related to how we view God, ourselves and our world.

Getting Started:

This past Sunday, Bob’s message addressing, “Is Christianity Too Narrow?” contrasted Christianity with the other world views or religions of our day.

To start our discussion this week, we’re going to watch two videos and discuss them. The first one is the 2 1/2 minute video that was shown last Sunday that is a survey of many people’s responses to this week’s question. The second video is a 10 minute video that is a collection of people discussion this week’s question, “Is Christianity too narrow?” This video displays the various questions, struggles and perspectives of these individuals regarding this week’s topic.

Watch 1st video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX3i_6Pz4jA&feature=youtu.be

Did you identify with anyone’s expressed views in this video? If so, who and what resonated with you?

What do you think about the statistic that nearly half of all US adults believe it doesn’t matter what religious faith you follow because they all teach the same lessons?

Watch 2nd video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqPx1i934pA&feature=youtu.be>

In what ways can you identify with any of the stories that was shared? What did you find intriguing or compelling?

Do you think the media represent Christianity accurately?

Do you think Christians represent Christianity accurately?

In the video, Corey suggests, "When people say that all religions are the same, that sounds really humble and tolerant."

Why does he go on to say that those claims are actually exclusive?

How have people used religion for good?

How have people used religion for bad?

What are some examples of situations in which most people believe that "narrow ideas" are good?

What exclusive claims do you hold?

Do you allow yourself to be vulnerable when discussing your views with others?

From this second video and last Sunday's message and other Biblical insights you might have, how would you answer the question, "Is Christianity too narrow?"

Reflecting on and Discussing God's Word:

From the message last Sunday, what insights were helpful and/or what questions were raised for you?

How were you encouraged, challenged, stretched, confused etc. ???

Read John 3:16-18

What does this passage mean by 'believe'?

How does this passage convey that Jesus is the only way to receive eternal life?

Some see God's decision to require people to trust Jesus to be unnecessarily narrow and even cruel. How does this passage defend the goodness of God?

Do you think it is possible for someone who has never heard the name of Jesus to be reconciled to God though Jesus?

Why do you have that conviction?

John 3:18 indicates that some are not made right with God because they refuse to believe in Jesus.

Why do many choose not to believe in Jesus?

Read Jeremiah 29:4-11

In this passage, God calls his people to be present in their city in a way that enables it to flourish, while remaining personally focused on God. In v7, God encourages his people to be gracious and charitable toward all people - including those who do not share the same faith.

Is it possible to have an honest yet graceful dialog about important matters like faith?

Is it possible to win an argument and lose a relationship? How can we know when the 'discussion' is no longer productive?

Before we wrap up, let's share some prayer requests and pray for each other?