

I've Always Wondered....

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August 6, 2017

The Narrow Way

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.

John 14:5-7 (NIV)

For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."⁴¹ At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."⁴² They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"...⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."...⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

John 6:40-42, 47-51, 60 (NIV)

❖ Common misconceptions of Christianity:

1. You are BORN a Christian.

Key Truth: You have to make a CHOICE.

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13 (HCSB)

2. Christianity is a RELIGION.
Key Truth: It is a RELATIONSHIP.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us...¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

John 10:10-12, 15 (NIV)

❖ What Makes Christianity Distinct?

1. God is Father.

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

2. Christ is Savior.

(God) saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7 (NIV)

3. GRACE brings redemption.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

4. The World is our mission field.

“And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles¹⁸ to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God’s people, who are set apart by faith in me...²³ the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God’s light to Jews and Gentiles alike.”

Acts 26:17-18; 23 (NLT)

5. Christ gives Eternal life.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(NIV)

Romans 6:23

6. Christ literally conquered Death.

When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ’s cross.

Colossians 2:13-15 (MSG)

❖ How do I know I can trust the Bible?

1. The Bible is HISTORICALLY Reliable.
2. The Bible is written by EYE-WITNESSES.
3. The Bible is PERSONALLY Reliable.

(Jesus said,) “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)