



## **DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! - One Truth**

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*Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."*

John 14:6 NLT

### **Illustration - The Truman Show with Jim Carrey**

- It matters what you believe
- You don't want to get to the end of your life and realize that what you believed was all a lie.
- You need to know the truth.

Why? Because Jesus said, *"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."*

What is the Truth Jesus is talking about when He says, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life?"*

### **Why do religions exist?**

1. Origin - Where did we come from?
2. Identity - Who are we?
3. Meaning - Why are we here?
4. Morality - How should we live?
5. Destiny - Where are we going?

### **Three Categories of Religion**

## **The Three Major Religious Worldviews**

**THEISM**  
GOD MADE ALL



Judaism  
Christianity  
Islam

**PANTHEISM**  
GOD IS ALL



Zen Buddhism  
Hinduism  
New Age

**ATHEISM**  
NO GOD AT ALL



Religious  
Humanism

## How do we know Christianity is true?

### 1. There is a God

- Beginning of the Universe (Cosmological)

There is simply no way that the universe began from a random set of events without a cause.

Even theories like the Big Bang Theory recognize there must be something that caused or set everything into motion.

- Design of the Universe (Teleological/Anthropic)

It is simply beyond the scope of reason to believe that life exists from an origin without cause.

Theory of Evolution was not even formulated on solid scientific standards. Darwin admitted that he was disappointed with God and set out to prove that God did not exist. Any scientific study that starts with a motive so blatant would be laughed out of any serious university today.

There are such gaping holes in the theory that it is implausible.

- Design of Life (Teleological)

- The largest bone in the human body is the femur. It can support 30 times the weight of a person's body. Ounce for ounce, that's stronger than steel.
- Messages from the human brain travel along nerves at up to 200 miles an hour.
- If the DNA in your body were stretched out, it would be 10 billion miles long—enough to travel to Pluto and back.
- The human body contains over 35 trillion cells. Earth has about 7 billion people, which means that there are 5,000 times more cells in one body than there are people on the planet.
- No matter how badly fingerprints are damaged, they will always grow back in their original pattern.

There is not reasonable faith that would believe that this just randomly happened.

- Moral Law (Moral)

There are just some things that everyone in all societies just know that are wrong.

- Murder
- Child Abuse
- Lawlessness

People rise up when these things are allowed to take place because there is a deep-down knowledge that these things are wrong without a law telling us.

## **2. Miracles are used to confirm God's message.**

- New Testament records 36 miracles Jesus performed that eyewitnesses have verified.
- New Testament encourages people to verify the miracles
- NT writers describe miracles like other historical events—without embellishment.
- Jewish Talmud admits that Jesus performed miracles but claimed it was by sorcery.
- The sheer number of different eyewitnesses that claim that Jesus performed miracles is too great to be explained away as deception.
- OT predicted that the Messiah—a man who would actually be God—would come to Earth, perform miracles, be killed as a sacrifice for sin, and rise from the dead.

## **3. The Bible is true and reliable.**

Written by many people over many centuries under the inspiration of God. It was written:

- over 1400 years
- over 40 generations
- by over 40 authors from all walks of life
- on 3 continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe)
- in 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)

Yet it tells the same story of God's creation of the universe, the Earth, mankind, and His love for mankind that He would provide a way of salvation for us in spite of our sin against Him.

How do we know that the Bible has been preserved well enough to represent God's Word?

The **CANONIZATION** Process

**1. "canon" - rule; standard; measure**

**2. Old Testament**

- Books ratified by Jewish scholars in 90 AD were already in wide circulation and had wide acceptance.
- Jesus referred to Old Testament using the terms "the Law," "the Prophets" and "the Psalms" (or writings) (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44), which are the designations for the same books in the Old Testament today.

**3. New Testament**

- Books written before end of first century AD and in wide circulation as individual books for a couple of centuries.
- First list of New Testament books as they are found in our present Bible was compiled in 367 AD and officially ratified in two church leadership councils - Councils of Hippo (393 AD) and Carthage (397).

**4. Canonization criteria**

- Authorship - Did the book come from a prophet or apostle?
- Content - Did the book have doctrinal integrity - did it align with teaching/revelation already accepted?
- Usage - Did the book have wide acceptance - did many of God's people in several different places validate the writings?

## 5. How well has the Bible been preserved?

### Number and date of copies

- Credibility and reliability of ancient texts are determined by the number of copies of the originals and by how close the dates of the earliest copies are to the originals.
- New Testament has close to **6,000 copies** and the dates of the earliest copies are within **less than 100 years** after the originals.

## 4. Jesus' claim to be God was confirmed.

- He's fulfilled many prophecies.

Jesus actually fulfilled 333 OT prophecies about Messiah. The odds of that happening are 1 in 84<sup>97</sup>.

- He lived a sinless life and performed miracles.
- He predicted and accomplished His resurrection.