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*exploreGod*: Is Christianity Too Narrow?

John 14:1-6

Ray Cortese, May 6 & 7, 2017

## Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read John 14:1-6. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

## Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Ray said, "America is becoming more secular and there is growing hostility toward Christianity." What evidence do you see or hear which supports that?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

### THE CLAIM OF CHRISTIANITY

- 3 What is the radical and exclusive claim of Christianity?

## THE OBJECTION OF CHRISTIANITY

- 4 How would you respond to someone who says, “How arrogant and intolerant! Everyone knows that all religions are equally valid and teach the same thing”?
- 5 How would you answer someone who claims, “All religions see a part of the truth, but none grasp the whole”?
- 6 Why is it wrong to say that your religion, or what you believe, is just your opinion, and therefore has no right to impinge on anyone else?

## THE UNIQUENESS OF CHRISTIANITY

- 7 How do both religion and secularism make people narrow, intolerant, and proud? How is Christianity the opposite of, or the end of, religion?
- 8 *The incarnation produces humble people.* How is the incarnation completely unique among world religions? Ray said, “We don’t have to believe that we are better than non-Christians.” Explain.
- 9 *The Resurrection produces healing people.* How should Christians act as they wait for eternity in the New Heavens and the New Earth?
- 10 *Grace produces inclusive people.* What makes Christianity radically inclusive? Do you think Seven Rivers is a radically inclusive place? If not, how could we be more so?

## Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?