

TALKING POINTS

LIES WE BELIEVE - MANY WAYS TO HEAVEN

LEANING IN

A lot of people believe there is one destination when we die (heaven), but multiple paths to get there.

Those who believe this, may also think that only narrow-minded people say there is only one way to heaven. If you think about it though, there are things in life we all are narrow about and *should be* narrow about.

Any Doctor, Mathematician, Astronaut, Engineer, Scientist, and many others would all agree you must be narrow about certain things in life, especially when it is about *your* life. *Every single truth claim, by default, excludes everything else*

Therefore, being narrow in your thinking, as it relates to life, is not an attempt to be unkind or disrespectful. Rather, an attempt to be accurate, clear, and truthful because your life is important. This is why Jesus tells us that when it comes to your life & eternal life, it's narrow.

Media, television, the internet, etc. may tell you there are many ways to heaven. They say there must be multiple ways, because all religions basically say the same thing. When you look closely at 3 of the World's biggest religions you can see the views on God, Jesus, and people are all *very* different. But so often what people do is take the superficial similarities and say they are the same. At this point, we need to focus on passages of Scripture which clearly state there is only one-way to heaven.

Read Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:1-6, Romans 3:23-26

Do you know people who believe "all roads lead to heaven"? What can you say to them?

LIVING IT OUT

People often think about heaven as a destination, which is why they debate over the ideas of "different ways" to get there. However, there is a more accurate way to look at heaven which explains why there is *one* way to get there:

Heaven Is Less About A Place And More About A Person - to be with God, to know Him, to see Him, is *the central, irreducible draw of heaven*. God's presence brings satisfaction; His absence brings thirst and longing. To be in the presence of the One True God is the greatest *destination* of all.

Read John 17:3, Psalms 36:8-9

Have your images of heaven been more about a place, or a person?

Our Longing For Heaven Is A Longing For God - the philosopher Blaise Pascal once said, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ". We are at our core incomplete without God.

Read Psalms 63:1

Do you agree with Pascal regarding the "God-shaped hole" in us?

God's Greatest Gift To Us Is Himself - Jesus on the cross is the greatest gift we could possibly receive. His sacrifice for our sake can never be repaid. Our relationship with Him is what we were built for.

Read John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9

How can you share with someone heaven isn't really the point, Jesus is?