

Key Text Verse **John 14:1-6**

*“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions;^[a] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.^[b] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.” ⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” ⁶ **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.***

PRAYER –

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT - Jesus is the Only Way to God – Do you believe this?

- A statement of intolerance
- Excludes any other religion as a way to God
- Most people, even Christians, don’t believe this statement
- 2010 Parade Magazine poll – only 12% of (all groups) of Christians believed Jesus is the only way
- 2008 Fox News poll of 35,000 evangelical Church attendees – only 43% believe Jesus is the only way
- Will tolerate murder, rape and crime of all sores but cannot tolerate intolerance
- Evangelism is irrelevant if there are many ways to God
- The church becomes just a club membership
- People can just pick and choose from any assortment of religious teaching and be saved if Jesus is not the only way.
- What does the Bible say?

To understand John 14:6 we must back-track (chpt 13) to the events of the day when Jesus spoke these words.

It had been a long day of preparation; the disciples had worked hard to prepare for the most anticipated feast of the year – The Feast of the Passover. In a usual setting this would be celebrated with loved ones recognizing the great escape from death and how God spared the lives of the Hebrews when they by faith had placed the blood of a lamb on the doorpost of their home. It was commemorated as a holy day and observed yearly. On this Passover Day celebration Jesus had encouraged His disciples the twelve to come together and celebrate for this would be His last celebration with them. In less than 24 hours He would be hung on a cross and crucified in a most humiliating way.

The disciples worked hard that day making everything just right, the food was a perfect example of the required Jewish meal, the atmosphere – intimate – the invited guest – just the 12 closest to Jesus who had given up everything to follow Him. The evening had come and the supper finished, Judas was about to be exposed as a fraud and Jesus was once again going to tell His closest disciples that He would be departing them for another place. And then all chaos would be unleashed on their emotions, their world would be falling apart how could He call them to leave everything and follow Him and then He would go away..... Chapter 13:1 tells us insight into this whole dilemma and explains what we read about Jesus in 14:6. To understand this message and to understand Jesus as the ONLY WAY and to understand the whole picture of the cross and why He must go way and to understand the intolerance of the narrow way of **Jesus The Only Way** then you have to understand this one absolute thing...

John 13:1 *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having **loved His own** who were in the world, **He loved them to the end.***

Love, life and truth are inseparable simply because you cannot separate God and Love. Who would want life without love who would want love without truth. Jesus is the absolute inseparable way of truth, life and love.

Why is Jesus the absolute ONLY WAY?

(1) Because of His Absolute Way of Love for You

The Way of Jesus is the Way of Love - The Way of Religion Cannot Love You

Only God is Love – and there is only one way to God

1 John 4:7-10

*⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might **live** through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

- Islam does not love its followers
- Judaism does not love its people
- Buddhism does not love your soul
- No ceremonial procedures can love you
- No self made way of spiritual activity can ever be a viable substitute for God's love
- All Religions demand something from you only God gives LOVE to you. READ **ROMANS 8:31-39**

Why is Jesus The Absolute Truth? Cannot other religions be true? The answer is NO - NEVER

(2) Because Absolute Truth Can Only Come From A True Source

Truth must be established in absolute terms... something is either true or not true

A straight line cannot be partly straight or slightly straight – its either straight or its not!

The love of God is demonstrated in His absolute truth. Love and Truth go together – **Ps. 138:2**

John 8:44

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Our Choices are simply one or the other, no in-between:

- God or Satan (Satan cannot love)
- The Way or No Way – no choice of many Gods or there is no truth
- Full Truth or some truth (love comes in full truth – **Ephs 4:15 speak the truth in love**)
- My Truth or God's Truth (God the Creator of all things) His truth

Why is Jesus The Life? Can I not find life in something outside of Jesus? No – Never!

(3) Because Absolute Life has no Room from Death (God's Love = Life)

John 5:24 ²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Apart from Absolute Life there is only one choice – Absolute Death – and death is not rooted in love death is rooted in sin – only life is rooted in love. Things you love you want to live.

- Death is passed on to all men - Life is passed on to all men by the Love of God (**John 3:16**)
- Death is the defeat of man – Life is the victory of God
- Death is final – Life is everlasting

- **Romans 8:31-39**
- ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?³⁶ As it is written:
 - "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."^[c]
- ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 138:2

I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your **lovingkindness** and Your **truth**; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

For Mono on Bulletin Cover

Love, life and truth are inseparable characteristics of the way of Jesus the Son of God. Simply stated no one can separate God and Love, for indeed God is love nor can we separate God and truth. Who would want life without love or who would want love without truth. Jesus is the absolute inseparable way of truth, life and love. Today in our sermon series on the "I Am" statements of Jesus we will look at the most controversial statement of all... the definitive declaration that Jesus is the only way to God. What do you say about this statement? What does God's Word say about this statement?