



Session 3

- Welcome and Introduction

## With so many religions, why say Christ is the only way? Isn't that narrow-minded?

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### 1. Is “Narrow” the same as “narrow-minded”?

No one appreciates a person who is bigoted or close-minded.

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### 2. Narrow is often good, and even necessary.

“Unleaded Gas Only”	Only Ticketed Passengers Beyond This Point
An airplane should land _____.	This is <i>my</i> house.
The decimal point on my pay check...	My surgeon must be trained and certified.
Do not operate when under the influence.	

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### 3. All religious beliefs are narrow.

The six blind men and the elephant.

The Moral of the Story...

“...No one has the Truth, in its entirety.”

Everyone only has a small part of the truth. Right?

But, what does the story teller know?

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### 4. To be sincere about something doesn't make that something true.

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### 5. The Christian faith is only as good as the object of faith, Jesus Christ.

Did Jesus exist?

Can we trust the Biblical record?

What did Jesus claim?

Is Jesus credible?

Did he rise from the dead?

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## 6. Christianity is narrow about *the how*, but not narrow about the *for whom*.

### **Genesis 12:3b**

“...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

### **Revelation 7:9a**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...”

### **Galatians 3:28**

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

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*From Christianity Today*, October 14, 2019

“The Most Diverse Movement in History

Christianity has been a multicultural, multiracial, multiethnic movement since its inception.”

**By REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN**

- By the second century, Christianity spread through Egypt to Tunisia, the Sudan, and other parts of Africa.
- In the fourth century, Ethiopia became the second officially Christian state in the world.
- Africa spawned several of the early church fathers, including Athanasius and Augustine of Hippo.
- Until recent persecution, Iraq was home to one of the oldest continuous Christian communities in the world.
- India claims a [Christian] lineage going back to the first century.
- “Many of us associate Christianity with white, Western imperialism...But most of the world’s Christians are neither white nor Western, and Christianity is getting less white and less Western by the day.
- Today, Christianity is the largest and most diverse belief system in the world, representing the most even racial and cultural spread, with roughly equal numbers of self-identifying Christians living in Europe, North America, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa. Over 60 percent of Christians live in the Global South, and the center of gravity for Christianity in the coming decades will likely be increasingly non-Western.
- According to Pew Research Center, by 2060, sub-Saharan Africa could be home to 40 percent of the world’s self-identifying Christians. And while China is currently the global center of atheism, Christianity is spreading there so quickly that China could have the largest Christian population in the world by 2025 and could be a majority-Christian country by 2050, according to Purdue University sociologist Fenggang Yang.”

## **Conclusion and Encouragement**