

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

**“I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”  
A Study of John 14:1-6**

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Imagine you are discussing with two friends the purchase of a used Ford Pinto. The first friend says, “You’re considering a blue Pinto? Don’t you think tan is a classier color?” The second friend says, “I don’t care which color you pick, but I really think you should look at some safety reports before you buy that guy’s old Ford Pinto. Because of the placement of the gas tank, in rear-end crashes those things have been known to blow up.”

- ❖ Which friend is merely stating a personal preference and which one is expressing concern for your well-being?
- ❖ When a Christian encourages someone to place faith in Jesus, is the Christian more like the first friend or the second friend?

Have you personally belonged to or at least considered any other world religion? If so, what do/did you find attractive about it? If you became a believer from another faith, what aspects of Christianity attracted you?

Read John 14:1-6.

Jesus expressed an exclusive claim about himself in verse 6. This is difficult to talk about in our city, where people tend to say, “There simply can’t be only one way to know God.” That view is known as **pluralism**. List some reasons why pluralism is so popular in our culture.

Pastor Tom explained that the gospel, not pluralism, is the best way **peace in our world** and **peace with God**.

## PEACE IN OUR WORLD

Pluralists say it’s arrogant to say there’s only one way to God. However, pluralists don’t really escape the danger of arrogance

and superiority, either. Why is it so hard for anyone to see the danger of arrogance and superiority in their own convictions?

Christians actually have three resources that can make them agents of peace in our world.

**Common Grace.** Read Romans 1:18-20 & 2:1-4.

These verses teach that even without the benefit of the Bible some truths can intuitively be known about God. So, it is no surprise we find elements of truth in every religion. This is especially true in ethics--what we "ought" to do.

- ❖ List beliefs Christians have in common with others, even if they practice a different religion or no religion.
- ❖ What are ways that Christians can work together with people of others faiths and people of no faith to make our community and our world a better place?

**Saving Grace.** Read Romans 3:22-24.

The more we realize that we were saved by grace and not by personal worth or works, the more gracious we can be to others. Why is this true?

**The Example of Jesus.** Read Colossians 1:19-22.

Jesus died at the hands of opponents while asking God to forgive them because they didn't know what they were doing. How can this truth move us to be agents of peace in the world?

When someone wants to argue with us or they disagree with our convictions, how can we respond as agents of peace?

## PEACE WITH GOD

Read John 3:16, Acts 4:27-28, and Romans 5:8. According to these verses, why did Jesus willingly offer Himself for crucifixion?

Tim Keller says, “The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”

- ❖ Why does the gospel message make us more aware of our personal flaws even as it tells us we’re accepted by God?
- ❖ How does this make the Christian message unique among the world’s religions?

## CONCLUSION

In our diverse city, the most common question non-Christians will ask you is what Christians think of other religions.

- ❖ From what you’ve learned today, what will you tell them?
- ❖ How can you better prepare yourself to deal with this question?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests.