

Is Christianity Too Narrow?

For the week of Feb. 3, 2019

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

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VIDEO 1: PULSE OF THE WORLD ON CHRISTIANITY & CULTURE

This video is a 2.5-minute survey of many people's responses to this question.

Questions for Discussion:

- Did you identify with anyone's expressed views in the film? If so, who and what resonated with you?
- What do you think about the statistic that "nearly half of all US adults believe it doesn't matter what religious faith you follow because they all teach the same lessons"?

VIDEO 2: THE CURIOSITY COLLECTIVE: IS CHRISTIANITY TOO NARROW?

This is a 10-minute collection of subject matter experts discussing the question "Is Christianity too narrow?" It displays the various questions, struggles, and perspectives of these individuals regarding this week's topic. See what they have to say and then discuss it.

Questions for Discussion:

After watching the video, choose from this list of questions or ask some of your own to facilitate discussion. There's no need to limit your discussion to these questions or to feel pressured to cover all of them in the time you have.

- In what ways can you identify with any of the stories in The Curiosity Collective? What did you find intriguing or compelling?
- Does the media represent Christianity accurately? Do Christians represent Christianity accurately?
- In the video, Corey suggests, "When people say that all religions are the same, that sounds really humble and tolerant." Why does he go on to say that those claims are actually exclusive?



- How have people used religion for good? For bad?
- What are some examples of situations in which most people believe that narrow ideas are good?
- What exclusive claims do you hold? Do you allow yourself to be vulnerable when discussing your views with others?

INTO THE BIBLE:

1. If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you live in two worlds. One is here on earth. According to Philippians 3:20-21, our real home is in heaven. We're already called "citizens of heaven." To make our home completely on earth is to miss the joy of what's ahead. That's the real struggle with wanting to "stay relevant" to our earthly culture and to be tolerant with the world's priorities—even when they counter what we know are God's priorities as He has outlined in His Word for us. **Read Philippians 3:20-21** together. Name at least three things we as Christians have to look forward to that's yet ahead.

- Now, **read Hebrews 11:13-16**. People who are convinced their citizenship is in heaven think differently about life now. What are some of those differences?
- How do these two passages change the way you think about your life here and now? What do they help you understand about why a heavenly perspective runs counter to an earthly one?

2. Practically speaking, **Ephesians 5:15-17** warns us about setting our hopes on where we live today. **Read these verses together.** When Paul says, "Be very careful, then, how you live" he's saying, "look carefully, look hard, think carefully, meticulous, diligent, be methodical, be vigilant, be cautious, be introspective as to how you walk." Walking is a great metaphor for how to live the Christian life. One step in front of the other.

- This passage tells us that we've got to be wise, making the best use of our life. Why? Some people say we should be tolerant of everything and let people live as they chose. But this verse says that your choices, your steps, matter. Think it through. (Other verses: Proverbs 21:29b, Psalm 119:59, Ephesians 5:9-10).
- Most choices you'll make this week are not black and white, but determining what's better and best. Do you resonate with this? What better/best decisions do you need to make?



3. **Read 1 John 2:15-17.** Why should we not love the things of this world? Why are we different?

Agree or disagree: “Love for the world pushes out love for God, and love for God pushes out love for the world.” How have you seen this to be true?

Ask the Lord to show you what you love.

Pray also for those who do not yet know Jesus, that their thirst for Him will be increased in anticipation of what they will hear next week.

MEMORY VERSE: *“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper” (Jeremiah 29:7).*

