

# Now That's Controversial!

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**Q.** Is there more than one God?

**A.** There is only one, the living and true God.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism #5)

*"I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me."*

(Isaiah 45:5)

We live in a culture today that prizes *relativity*. Relativity is a worldview that asserts that there are no absolutes and that there are no universal truths that apply to all people in all places. Ours is a world that declares, *"That may be true for you...but it's not true for me!"*. Perhaps you yourself have gotten into a conversation with a person who has used that same type of argument. The dominate worldview today is that all truth is *subjective*, that is, that truth isn't determined by gathering objective data and drawing a rational conclusion based off of the evidence, but that truth is simply a matter of how we *feel* about a particular issue. The society we live in says, *"If it feels right to me...it must be true"*.

There are many people today who are very *sincere* in their particular religious beliefs, whether they are Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Scientologists, etc. However, a person can be very *sincere* in their beliefs, and at the same time, be *sincerely* wrong! There are approximately 4,200 different religions in our world today. The six most common world religions are Hinduism, New Age, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The reality is, each of these six primary religions (*along with the rest of the 4,200 religions worldwide*) cannot all be true. Why? Because each of these religions contradict each other in one way or another! For example, Hinduism teaches that there are infinite manifestations of gods and goddesses (*polytheism*), while Buddhists teach that there are no gods or goddesses whatsoever (*atheism*). Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ is God, the second person of the Trinity, while Judaism teaches that Jesus was simply a false teacher. To say that every world religion is equally valid would be to break the law of non-contradiction! The law of non-contradiction states that something can't be true and not true at the same time and in the same relationship. In other words, not every belief system is valid. Not every religious system that exists in our world is true.

It's in the midst of all of this religious confusion that the Bible makes a claim that is completely controversial and countercultural. Our catechism, asks the question, *"Is there more than one God?"*. In other words, the catechism is asking, *"are all religions equally valid? Are all these 4,200 religious beliefs equally true?"*. The Westminster divines answered definitively by giving a strong summary of the Bible's teaching on this matter by stating, *"There is only one, the living and true God."* Talk about a controversial statement! The clear teaching of the Bible is that there is only one God, the God that is revealed to us in the pages of the Old and New Testaments.

God has clearly spoken in the Bible and declared to us that He is the only God that exists. All other gods (such as *Allah* or *Krishna*) are nothing more than idols or false gods. In Isaiah 45:5 the Lord declares, "*I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me.*". Paul in the letter to the church in Corinth writes these words, "*there is no other God but one...for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things... and one Lord Jesus Christ...*" (1 *Corinthians* 8:4-6). What does this mean about the other 4,200 world religions in existence today? The clear and yet controversial truth of the Scriptures is that only one of those world religions is valid. Only one of those world religions is true. And that is the religion of biblical Christianity. Contrary to what your friends and the media may say, all faiths do not lead to the same destination. All roads do not lead to Heaven. There is only One God that actually exists, the Triune God of the Bible.

## Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Deuteronomy 6:4

Isaiah 45:21-22

John 17:3

1 John 5:20