**Confessing the Faith**

**Class 2 – Truth vs. Pluralism**

Objective: This session will have the students reflect on “absolute truth” in contrast to subjective truth. The goal is for them to understand that there must be an absolute truth in contrast to post-modernism, thus mutually exclusive religions cannot simultaneously be true. They need to intentionally identify their own source of truth (the Bible). This will hopefully alert them to the contemporary god of tolerance and pluralism, that they may be further motivated for study.

I. **Icebreaker Question:**

When someone asserts “abortion is wrong” in a neighborhood picnic, how might others respond? Why? Can abortion be OK and not OK at the same time?

 [Teach the distinction between subjective and objective truth]

**II. Define Religious Pluralism and Postmodernism**

**Religious Pluralism**: the idea that all religions are equally legitimate paths to God.

**Postmodernism**: there is no single objective truth, but everyone’s opinion of truth is equally valid.

Video on Religious Pluralism and Atheism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVrAmtftYQI>

a. What’s the central argument made in the video? [There are many religions that all teach weird things, therefore they all must be false.]

b. What is the logical error made in the video? [Just because there are many contradictory religions does not necessarily mean they all must be false. Rat poison Analogy: If there were 9 boxes of rat poison in front of you and one of Skittles, are all of them poisonous?

**III. Do most religions have things in common? Like what?**

a. Supernatural/spiritual claims, Moral truths, exclusive truth claims, beginning/end times explanations stories, etc.

b. Does this make them all equally true or false?

c. How can you determine truth or falsity regarding religions? [examine objective evidence]

d. While all religions could be false, they can’t all be true.

**IV. Coexist—What point is this popular bumper sticker making?**



**V. Jesus as the ONLY Way**

* Does the Bible promote pluralism?
1. Read Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”
2. Read John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
3. Read John 8:24 “I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins.”
4. Read Exodus 20:1-6 “And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

VI. Truth?

* Is there an objective source of the truth that we can trust? Is it reliable?
* Does one’s objective truth impact one’s morality?

Most helpful thing I learned today:

Homework:

Read *The Case for Christ*, Chapters 1 and 2 on Eyewitness Evidence (p.1-53)

Read *The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony* by Dr. Richard Bauckham found here: <http://richardbauckham.co.uk/uploads/Accessible/Denver.pdf>

Read The Apostles Wrote the Gospels as Eyewitness Accounts by J. Warner Wallace, found here: <http://coldcasechristianity.com/2016/the-apostles-wrote-the-gospels-as-eyewitness-accounts/>