

# Confronting Christianity

## Week Three: How Can You Say There's Only One True Faith?

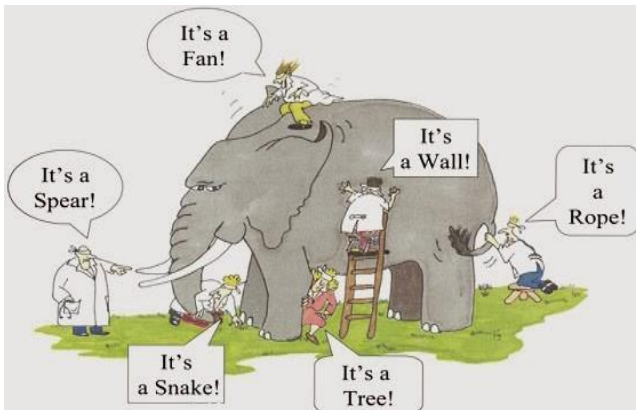
Pre-Group Reading Material: Chapter 3 (Pages 47-58)

Questions:

- Before we begin to reflect on the chapter, it would be helpful to explore what claims the Bible makes about other religious beliefs. Read the following passages and consider what the authors of Scripture believed about the exclusive nature of their faith. (Can you think of any other verses that would be relevant to consider here?)

1. Exodus 20:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Isaiah 45:5 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 \_\_\_\_\_

- What are some reasons why many people are uncomfortable making exclusive truth claims about religious beliefs today? How might this connect with the difficulty many Christians have in sharing their faith?



- Rebecca McLaughlin says that “...disagreement is not evidence of disrespect.” In fact, she argues that “...attempting to persuade others to change their beliefs is a sign of respect.” (49) Why does she say this?

- Had you heard the parable of the blind man/men and the elephant before? What ways does the author of our book point out the inadequacy of this parable?

- It is common today to hear people, such as Oprah, use the phrase “your truth” (51). What do you think people mean when they use this phrase? Why is a truth that is merely subjective inadequate?
- What are some ways that traditional religious beliefs tend to clash with modern secular ethics? (55) What difficulties occur when living in a society where people have different/competing moral convictions? How can we navigate these differences respectfully?
- Throughout this chapter, Rebecca speaks about the value of being in relationships with smart people you don't agree with. Do you have people in your life who fit this description? How have you sought to build and maintain such relationships?
- The author ends this chapter by reflecting on the exclusive truth claims made by Jesus. In John 14:6 Jesus says, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” For those who are Christians, how should this teaching from Jesus affect the way they live?