

**‘Be more narrow-minded!’**

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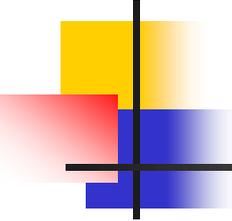


# Introduction

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In conclusion to Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives listeners a choice:

- Narrow gate (leads to more difficult path); wide gate (leads to easier path)
- Two mutually exclusive choices
- Two different outcomes - life with God or self-destruction (and wasted life)
- No third way: He (Jesus) is the only way

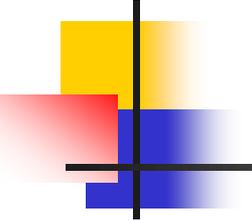


.... introduction

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**Rick Warren:**

*“ You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense.”*

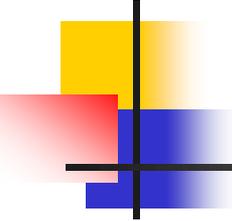


# **Objection I: What is true for you is true for you, but not true for me**

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## **1. We don't live our lives like that!**

- Demands for inquiries: Post Office scandal, UK Covid-19 pandemic, Grenfell Tower fire
- Why? To get at 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth'

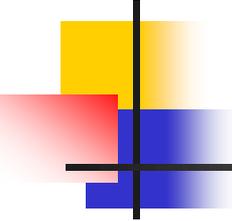


.... true for you but not true for me!

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## 2. By definition, truth excludes something

- Includes what is true; excludes what is untrue
- Atheist, agnostic, and Christian can't all be right
- Romans 5:8: proves God is a person and loves us
- Every view excludes some other view; it's not who excludes who what is **TRUE**

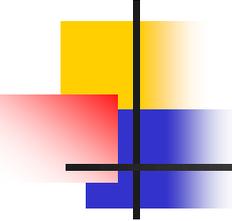


**.... true for you but not true for me!**

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### **3. 'Everything is relative' is self-defeating**

- Nothing is more relative than relativism
- Why should I listen to you if what you say is all relative?



....true for you but not for me

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Jesus does not believe in relativism. It is **Jesus** who says:

- “Enter through the narrow gate” (Gospel of Matthew 7:13)
- I am that narrow gate
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (Gospel of John 14:6)



## Objection 2:

# Aren't Christians intolerant?

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Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (online)

- **Tolerate:** *to allow somebody to do something that you do not agree with or like*
- **Synonym:** *“put up with”, e.g. Their relationship was tolerated but not encouraged.*
- **Tolerance:** *the ability or willingness to tolerate the existence of opinions or non-criminal behaviour that one dislikes or disagrees with*



## .... aren't Christians intolerant?

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- **Peter Costello – Australian politician**

*“Tolerance does not mean that all views are the same. It does not mean that differing views are equally right. What it means is that where there are differences, no matter how strongly held, different people will respect the right of others to hold them.”*

- Yet in today's politically correct culture, 'tolerance' is used as a “sword to silence debate, rather than the shield it was intended to be”.



## .... aren't Christians intolerant?

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Christians are not intolerant. It is **Jesus** who says:

- “Enter through the narrow gate” (Gospel of Matthew 7:13)
- I am that narrow gate
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (Gospel of John 14:6)



## **Objection 3: But Jesus is only a man!**

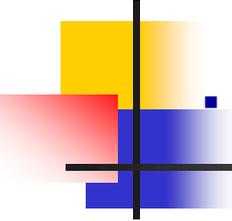
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### **Jesus' shocking claim to be God:**

John: 8:58, John 10:30, John 14:6, Revelation 1:17,  
Matthew 9:2-7, John 8:24 (NLT).

### **4 possibilities:**

- **1.** Jesus was a legend but historical records prove otherwise
- **2.** Jesus insane but consider greatness of his life and teachings
- **3.** Jesus lied but regarded the most moral and perfect man who has ever lived, even by his enemies.
- **4.** Jesus was who he said he was.



## ... Jesus is only a man!

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C.S.Lewis:

*“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”*

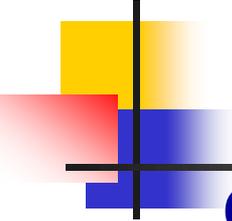


## ... **Jesus is only a man!**

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Jesus claims to be God. It is **Jesus** who says:

- “Enter through the narrow gate” (Gospel of Matthew 7:13)
- I am that narrow gate
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (Gospel of John 14:6)



# Summary

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## Consider Jesus!

- If there was one person in the world you can trust who would that be?
- If there was one person you would follow wholeheartedly, who would that be?



## ... summary

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### John Stott: “**Why I am a Christian**”

- Not that he found Christ, but Christ found him.
- Not that Christian faith is attractive, but because it is true.
- Not because he deserved to be saved, but because Christ took his sins, and ours, on himself.
- Jesus Christ is the answer to the paradox at the heart of our humanness, and key to true freedom and fulfilment.
- Jesus Christ extends to you now the greatest of all invitations and waits patiently for your response