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I find the best approach to people who ask me that question is to point them to Jesus. The big issue is who he is – is he God's one and only Son? - and how one particular man living in one particular time and place can be relevant to all times and places.

It's helpful in defending Christian faith to point beyond religion to history itself and to what could be seen as the most stupendous event in history. I mean the well attested conviction that in the first century of our era Jesus, a Teacher from Galilee who was crucified was raised from the dead. This fact still stands and bears examination from the gospel accounts and from Christian experience of the living Lord. Since death is something universal this is the thing about Christianity everyone should sit up and listen to! Look at the leaders of the other religions, see their graves! Where's Jesus' grave stone – you won't find it!

If one religion is true it seems bound to be at the expense of all the others. Is it totally a black and white matter though? Is Christianity right and every other religion wrong?

Saying yes to Jesus doesn't mean saying no to *everything* about other religions. Quite the opposite – it can mean saying 'yes, but...' to other religions, which is a far more engaging attitude.

I say 'yes' to what Buddhists teach about detachment because Jesus teaches it and Christians often forget it. I must challenge Buddhists about the lack of a personal vision of God since I know Jesus as God's Son.

I say 'yes' to what Muslims say about God's majesty because sometimes Christians seem to domesticate God and forget his awesome nature. I have a real issue with Muslims about how you gain salvation because I know Jesus is God's salvation gift and more than a prophet.

Other religions can wake us up to aspects of Christian truth that get forgotten. Would so many people be turning to eastern religions in Britain today if Christians were as serious in their spiritual discipline as many Buddhists?

Sometimes other religions derive from an attempt to simplify Christianity that has thrown the baby out with the bath water so to speak. This could be said of Islam's rejection of the Trinity. Would more people be turning to Islam if Christians knew their faith as well as Muslims and could defend belief in the Trinity as part of the faith of the church through the ages?

Thank God the Christian religion points not to its own truth so much as to Jesus - whose truth is bigger than any religion.

This is what Jesus means when he says *'no one comes to the Father except through me'* (John 14:6b) or what Paul means when he says Jesus has *'the name above all other names'* and that *'every tongue should confess it'* (Philippians 2:9, 11).

With so many religions around how can you say Christianity is true? Because of Jesus is the short answer – but it's not a straight forward answer, saying Christianity's right and other religions are all wrong.

I agree with a teaching of the second Vatican Council where it says *'the... Church rejects nothing which is true and holy in these religions...which...often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men. Indeed she proclaims and must ever proclaim Christ, "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6), in whom men find the fullness of religious life, and in whom God has reconciled all things to Himself (cf 2 Cor. 5:18-19).*

This is a very good answer to how the truth as Christians see it relates to the truth of other religions. It's based on the start of St. John's Gospel where it says Jesus Christ is *'the light that lightens everyone who comes into the world'*. Christians hold an exclusive loyalty to Jesus as unique Saviour alongside an acceptance that much of his goodness, truth and beauty are reflected in the world he came to save and in her religions.

'There has been only one Christian and he died on the cross' wrote the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. He had a point. According to the standard of Jesus all Christians fall short, but not as short as Nietzsche would have it!

If Christianity is true, we have to admit that the existence of other religions is a witness to the failure of Christianity to live and speak her truth in a way that commends itself.

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