

The Gospel

John 14:6 says, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but through me.'" 1 John 4:7-19 indicates that we respond to God in love only because He first loved us. 1 Corinthians 12:3 says that "no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit." Thus, there is only one way to Heaven found in Christ Jesus, and the only way a person responds to the Gospel is by the action of God.

With Jesus as my Lord and my Savior, I am His servant equipped with gifts and have good works prepared in advance for me to walk in (Matthew 6:24; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 2:10). It is my privilege as a believer to follow Christ in obedience. Yet anything I do without love that comes from God is useless (1 Corinthians 13). All I must do is obey and love. There is no way I can draw someone to Christ by myself. It is God and God alone who does this though He may use me as His vessel.

Paul also says, "*For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.*" in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. To reach out and share the Gospel with this man, I must become whatever will reach Him within the confines of Scripture.

The issue here is not good people headed to hell or bad people headed to heaven. The issue is whether or not Christ is the only way to heaven. Scripture makes it clear that He is. Therefore, all other ways besides Christ will not lead to heaven. Scripture makes it clear that those who are seeking God with all their heart will find Him (Deuteronomy 4:29; Proverbs 8:17; Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 7:7). If we take Scripture at its word, a true search for the truth will lead to Christ who is the only way to the Father. James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." So a true seeking of God ultimately prompts Him to draw near. His promptings may then lead to this man's salvation provided he is truly seeking truth.

So ultimately, I would propose to this man that he and I embark on a journey to seek the truth by studying in-depth the major religions of the world (Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hindu, and any others he may suggest). If this man is truly seeking out truth and is prompted by the God, we will ultimately arrive at Jesus as the only true way to the Father.

Many times when I have tried to simply argue this with other people I have just turned them off. I believe this is an effective way to ultimately share the gospel while showing genuine love and concern while not pushing them away.

The gospel is simply the good news that Jesus, God Incarnate, came and died as a sacrifice for the sin of mankind and rose again from the dead providing victory over sin and the grave.