

Conversation Starters

- What is your coffee of choice?

Discuss

Today's culture has so many opportunities for customization. Whether it is your favorite coffee, food, travel, and so forth, you can usually create your own experience. Some try to take the same approach with spirituality, however, Christianity doesn't allow for that. While there may be some truth in other religions, Christianity says that there is only one way to God – and that's through Christ.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ([John 14:6 NIV](#))

- Do you ever find yourself trying to customize religion?
- Why can't we say that all religions are right?

The Bible teaches that everyone, regardless of how "good" of a person you are, has a need to be made right in relationship with God. It isn't God's desire to see anyone lost and apart from Him, but He gives us the freedom to choose or reject the offer of a relationship. The freedom ensures that the relationship is authentic and real rather than being forced on us.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ([Romans 3:23 NLT](#))

"Very truly I [Jesus] tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him [God] who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." ([John 5:24 NIV](#))

- If someone followed your every thought or move, what would they find out about you?
- How would it feel to have everything wrong you've ever done forgiven without consequence?
- What would a relationship with God look like if it was forced on us?

While the presence of hell is disturbing, it's existence is necessary because it shows us that there is morality and a true right and wrong and a God who brings justice. The equally significant truth is that the God of the Bible is loving. We can trust that He will do the right and just thing by every person. We can trust His character. He sent Jesus to the world to offer us amazing grace along with His truth.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. ([Romans 6:23 NIV](#))

- How do you picture hell?
- What do you know about the character of God?
- What do you need to learn about God to believe in Him?

Next Steps

Though the result of our sin and broken relationship with God is spiritual death, we are offered an incredible gift of a restored relationship with God through Christ. But the gift is only ours if we reach out and take it. Crossing the line of faith happens when we recognize our sin, acknowledge Christ as the way to a relationship with God and confess our sins to Him, and then turning over our life to God to allow Him to lead us in every area of life. You can do this through prayer, which is simply talking with God. Spend 5 minutes in prayer every day this week.

Need help with prayer? Check out [Learning to Pray](#) in the Meck Institute.

Further Reflection

Read [John 3:16-19 NIV](#).

Pray

God, you are too kind. Thank you for your grace and for sending Jesus to restore our relationship with you. Thank you for being so incredibly forgiving. Help us with any questions that cause us to doubt, and show us how to live more and more like Jesus every day.