

Common Heresies

Based on an article in

***Christianity Today*, September, 2022**

1. Jesus isn't the only way to God.

More than half—56 percent—of evangelical respondents affirmed that “God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism and Islam,” up from 42 percent in 2020. And while the question doesn't include all religions, it indicates a bent toward universalism—believing there are ways to bypass Jesus in our approach to and acceptance by God.

Why this is WRONG!

The only way to God is Jesus. The Bible is very clear on that point. Jesus told us that the scriptures were the way to eternal life because they were about Him.

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds

should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.**

Galatians 1:8-9

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. **As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**

Acts 4:10-12

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, **that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead,** even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

2. Jesus was created by God.

A surprising 73 percent agreed with the statement that “Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.”

Why this is WRONG!

Jesus created all things.

Colossians 1:13-17

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and **hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

3. Jesus is not God.

Given the above beliefs on Jesus as a created being, it's not too surprising that 43 percent affirmed that "Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God," which is another form of Arian heresy.

Why this is WRONG!

Jesus is literally one with His father. They are the same.

John 10:30

I and my Father are one.

John 14:6-9

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father**, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the**

Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

4. The Holy Spirit is not a personal being.

Speaking of the Trinity, 60 percent of the evangelical survey respondents had some confusion about its third member, believing that “The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being.”

Why this is WRONG!

The Holy Ghost is equal to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:7

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and **the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**

The Holy Ghost’s job is to teach us and guide us in all truth (God’s word.)

John 16:13-15

Howbeit when **he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. **He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The Holy Ghost will also glorify Jesus Christ because He indwells all members of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Romans 8:9

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead **shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**

1 Corinthians 3:16

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and **that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

1 Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2 Timothy 1:14

That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Now he which **stablisheth us with you in Christ,** and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, **and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.**

5. Humans aren't sinful by nature.

Interestingly, 57 percent also agreed to the statement that “Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature.” In other words, humans might be capable of committing individual sins, but we do not have sinful natures.

Why this is WRONG!

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 3:22-23

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

Romans 3:9-12

What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, **that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. **They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

6. The Bible is not literally true

Researchers called the rejection of the divine authorship of the Bible the “clearest and most consistent trend” over the eight years of data. “This view makes it easy for individuals to accept biblical teaching that they resonate with while simultaneously rejecting any biblical teaching that is out of step with their own personal views or broader cultural values,” the researchers wrote.

Why this is WRONG!

Jesus prayed to His father.

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

Paul tells Timothy that all scripture is given by God so that the man of God may be “perfect,” or completely instructed, unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

The Bible was written by God through faithful men.

2 Peter 1:20-21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

God promised to preserve His word forever so we can completely trust the truth contained in it.

Psalms 12:6-7

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. **Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**