

IS PLURALISM ENLIGHTENED?

THINKCUBE 2 | CHRISTIANITY HAS ITS OWN SET OF DISTINCTIVES

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Read ThinkCube 2 carefully. Use the article and Scripture to complete this open-book review. Circle one answer for each multiple-choice question and respond thoughtfully to the written prompts.

PREMISE 1: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM ONLY APPEARS ENLIGHTENED

1. What does religious pluralism commonly claim?

- A. Only Christianity contains truth
- B. All religious paths ultimately lead to the same God
- C. Religion is entirely unnecessary
- D. All religions teach identical rituals

2. Which principle challenges contradictory religious truth claims?

- A. The law of non-contradiction
- B. The law of gravity
- C. The principle of popularity
- D. The principle of tradition

3. Why does the article challenge the claim that all religions are fundamentally alike?

- A. Religions use different languages
- B. Religions have different holidays
- C. Their central teachings about God and salvation can contradict one another
- D. They were founded on different continents

PREMISE 2: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM ONLY APPEARS TOLERANT

4. How can pluralism minimize other religions?

- A. By carefully studying each religion
- B. By replacing their distinct claims with a universal interpretation
- C. By allowing freedom of worship
- D. By recognizing genuine doctrinal differences

5. What does John 14:6 teach about Jesus?

- A. He is one of many equally valid paths
- B. He taught all faiths are identical
- C. He is the way, the truth, and the life
- D. He rejected any claim about truth

6. Why does the article say pluralism makes an exclusive claim of its own?

- A. It claims no religion should be studied
- B. It asserts that all religious paths are valid despite conflicting teachings
- C. It forbids disagreement
- D. It teaches that every religion has the same founder

PREMISE 3: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IS A FAITH-BASED CONCEPT**7. Why is "all paths lead to the same God" a faith-based assertion?**

- A. It is a theological belief rather than an empirically established fact
- B. It is a laboratory finding
- C. It is stated identically in every sacred text
- D. It avoids making any claim about God

8. Which three questions does the article identify as central to religions?

- A. Language, geography, and food
- B. Politics, economics, and education
- C. God, how to live or be saved, and the afterlife
- D. History, art, and architecture

9. What does pluralism do when it supplies its own answers to these questions?

- A. It remains entirely neutral
- B. It creates a competing worldview
- C. It removes all theological claims
- D. It proves all traditions agree

10. What is the article's overall conclusion about pluralism?

- A. It resolves all contradictions
- B. It is the only neutral position
- C. It is beyond criticism
- D. It should be evaluated as a worldview with its own truth claims

PART TWO | WRITTEN REFLECTIONS

Use the ThinkCube article to support your responses. Write in your own words.

1. Premise 1: Explain the law of non-contradiction. Give one example of conflicting religious claims and explain why both cannot be true in the same sense.

2. Premise 2: How might telling religious believers that their core doctrines do not matter actually be disrespectful to those believers?

3. Premise 3: Explain why the claim "all paths lead to the same God" is itself a religious or theological belief.

PART TWO | WRITTEN REFLECTIONS (CONTINUED)

4. Compare the Christian teaching about salvation through Jesus Christ with a different religious understanding of salvation or liberation. Why does the distinction matter?

5. Bringing the arguments together: How would you respond respectfully to someone who says that all religions are simply different roads to the same destination?

PART THREE | SCRIPTURE MEMORY

John 14:6 — Read this verse in your Bible. Write it below and underline the words that identify Jesus as the way to the Father.

PERSONAL TAKEAWAY

What is one argument or distinction from this ThinkCube that you want to remember when discussing religious pluralism?

INSTRUCTOR ANSWER KEY

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PREMISE 1: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM ONLY APPEARS ENLIGHTENED

1. B — All religious paths ultimately lead to the same God
2. A — The law of non-contradiction
3. C — Central teachings about God and salvation can contradict

PREMISE 2: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM ONLY APPEARS TOLERANT

4. B — It replaces distinct claims with a universal interpretation
5. C — Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life
6. B — It asserts all paths are valid despite conflicting teachings

PREMISE 3: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IS A FAITH-BASED CONCEPT

7. A — It is a theological belief, not an empirically established fact
8. C — God, salvation or how to live, and the afterlife
9. B — It creates a competing worldview
10. D — Evaluate pluralism as a worldview with truth claims

REFLECTION GUIDANCE

1. Contradictory propositions cannot both be true in the same sense; examples should be accurate and relevant.
2. Pluralism can override a tradition's own understanding of its essential teachings.
3. Pluralism makes claims about ultimate reality and salvation that require justification.
4. Christianity teaches salvation through Christ; compare accurately with a specific tradition.
5. Look for a respectful response that distinguishes kindness toward people from agreement with claims.

Memory verse: John 14:6. Assess accurate transcription from the student's Bible translation. Personal takeaway: Answers will vary.