



BIBLE-SHAPED & COUNTER-CULTURAL

“DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD’S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL.”

(ROMANS 12:2)



A PEOPLE WHO...



... ARE CHRIST-CENTRED

... ARE BIBLE-SHAPED

... ARE FAMILY

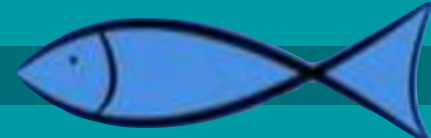
... ARE VIBRANT

... DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY

... EXTEND GRACE

... CONNECT

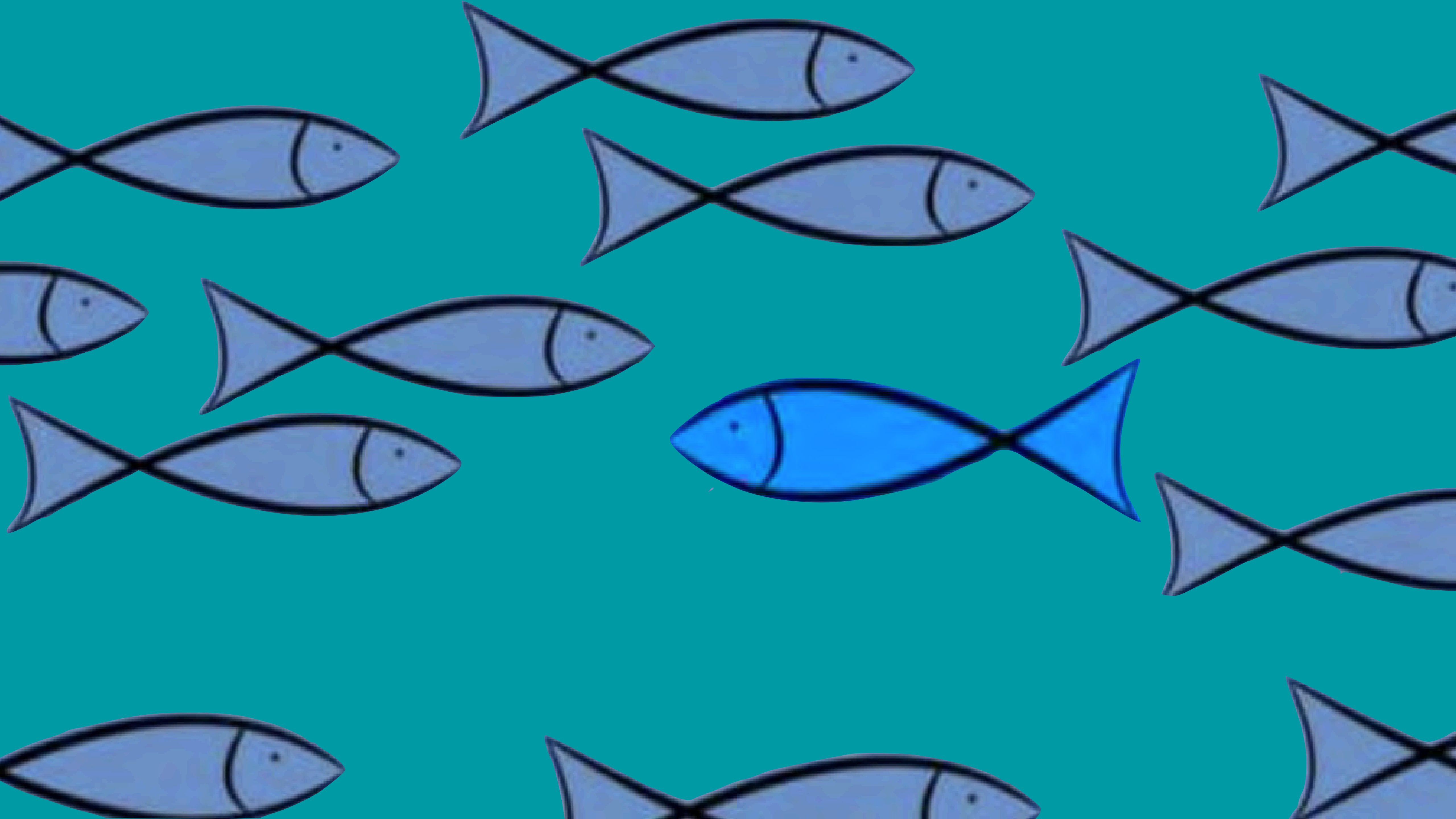


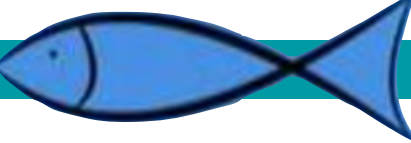


The Bible

We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error, the fully inspired and infallible Word of God and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

ELIM FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS





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SUBJECTS WE PLAN TO COVER...

‘One True God’ - a Bible-shaped approach to other faiths

‘Supernaturally Speaking’ - a Bible-shaped approach to spirituality

‘You Are What You Eat’ - a Bible-shaped approach to consumerism and holistic health

‘Money Matters’ - a Bible-shaped approach to money and materialism

‘Sexual Sense’ - a Bible-shaped approach to love and sexuality

‘Who You Say I Am’ - a Bible-shaped approach to identity and self worth

‘Light of the World’ - Being a Bible-shaped People (Question & Answer)



**A SERIES ABOUT SOME SUBJECTS THAT WE NEED TO
TALK ABOUT IN CHURCH - AN OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPLAIN WHAT WE ARE FOR AS PEOPLE OF THE
KINGDOM OF GOD**



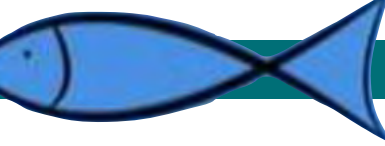
Q&A - 1ST DECEMBER:

**SUBMIT QUESTIONS / ISSUES YOU WOULD LIKE ME
TO TRY AND ADDRESS TO INFO@ELIMABERYSTWYTH
(NO PROMISES!)**



ONE TRUE GOD

A Bible-shaped approach to other faiths



**“You shall have no other gods
before me.”**

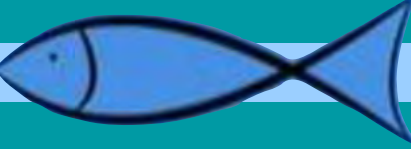
NO OTHER GOD

BIBLE-SHAPED & COUNTER-CULTURAL

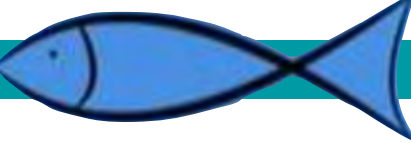
God spoke through Moses to Israel - His chosen people

Command #1 - One true God who alone is to be worshipped; the creator from whom and to whom are all things

This goes against the grain of a prevailing culture: 'do what feels good to you' and 'you believe your truth and I'll believe mine' (that is, until what you believe offends their agenda!)



**THROUGHOUT HISTORY, GODS HAVE COME IN ALL
KINDS OF DEFERENT SHAPES, SIZES AND
PERSUASIONS - WE HAVE WORSHIPPED IDOLS,
IDEOLOGIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN OUR HUMAN
DESIRE FOR BLESSING AND OUR QUEST FOR ETERNAL
TRUTH**



ONE TRUE GOD

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Our belief is that there is one true God - YHWH

This is, in one sense, 'exclusive' - one God is to be loved and worshipped to the exclusion of all others

Either this is truth, or it is not - the most vital of questions

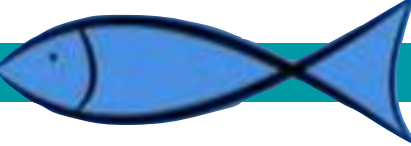


TRUTH EXISTS AND IS NOT RELATIVE



Relativism: the doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute.

OXFORD DICTIONARY



'THE FIGHT FOR TRUTH IS ON'

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To argue against absolute truth is a flawed argument... 'are you absolutely sure that is true?'

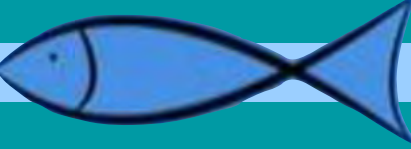
The 'media' today faces great challenges to be trusted in its presentation of what is true

So our quest is to know what, or who, is really true

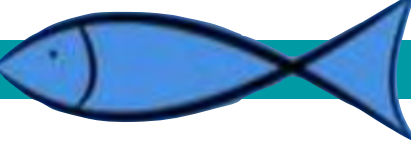


“The fight for truth is on”

BBC ADVERT, 18TH OCTOBER 2024



TRUTH EXISTS AND IS NOT A CONCEPT



TRUTH IS LOGOS NOT JUST LOGIC

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The 'Western' education and mindset with its desire for 'logic' and academic argument often leads to a desire to define truth in scientific and forensic terms

God is not a servant to human observation/understanding!

He reveals Himself, and His truth to us by His word (logos)

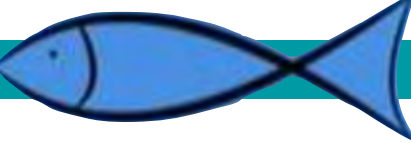


λόγος

Logos

Definition: a word (as embodying an idea), a statement, a speech

STRONGS CONCORDANCE



THE LIVING LOGOS

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In the Bible 'Logos' can refer to scripture (Heb 13:7), the gospel message (Acts 4:31) or God speaking (Luke 4) but is fully manifest in Jesus: The Word made flesh (John 1:1)

To begin to understand ultimate truth we seek to explore what God has revealed to us about Himself

God speaks through Creation, scriptures, by His Spirit and ultimately in person, ministry and revelation of Christ



**TRUTH IS FULLY EMBODIED AND REVEALED IN THE
PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST**



**SO HOW DO WE BEGIN TO TRY & EXPLAIN THE
NATURE OF THE ONE TRUE GOD?**

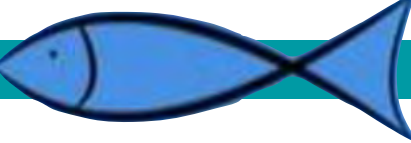


The Trinity

We believe that the Godhead exists co-equally and co-eternally in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and that these three are one God, sovereign in creation, providence and redemption.

ELIM FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

[HTTPS://WWW.ELIM.ORG.UK/ARTICLES/417857/OUR_BELIEFS.ASPX](https://www.elim.org.uk/articles/417857/our_beliefs.aspx)



'GOD IN THREE PERSONS'

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The Christian belief (doctrine) is that this is the God who has been revealed and personified in Jesus of Nazareth

The Bible reveals three 'Persons' of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each with their own distinct character and role as one Godhead

We see all three together at the baptism of Jesus - Matt 3:16



The Saviour

We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His real and complete humanity, in His sinless life, in His authoritative teaching, in His substitutionary and atoning sacrifice through His blood shed, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and His second advent to receive His Church.

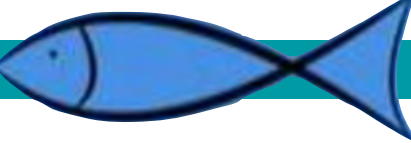
CREEDENCE

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Christian 'orthodoxy' (right doctrine) is often established in agreement with historical creeds created by council's of Christian leaders, scholars and theologians

These 'truths' are fairly robust and, whilst many differing expressions have emerged, have proven the test of time

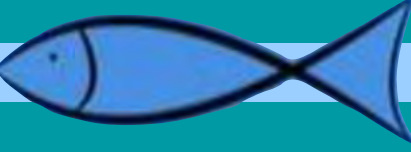
The Nicene Creed was developed between 325 and 381



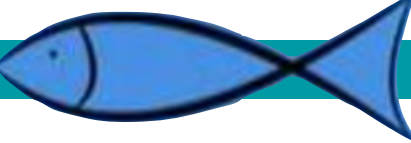


“We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.”

THE NICENE CREED



WHAT OTHER FAITHS?



OTHER 'MAJOR' WORLD 'RELIGIONS'

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Islam - monotheistic, prophet Mohamed, Quran, 5 Pillars

Buddhism - non-theistic, reincarnation, meditation, nirvana

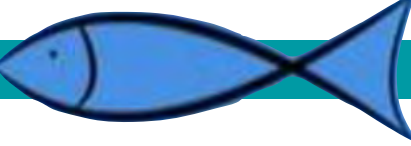
Hinduism - polytheistic, myriad of beliefs, rituals/festivals

Judaism - monotheistic, Abrahamic, the Torah, rituals

Sikhism - theistic, gurus, All paths lead to God, right living



“Christianity is different. Instead of us searching for God—God is searching for us! Instead of us reaching up to God—God is reaching down to us! This is why Jesus is so important, because He came down from Heaven to do for us what we could never do for ourselves: bring us to God.”



OTHER PREVAILING BELIEF SYSTEMS

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Humanism - humanity is the starting point of philosophy/morality

Secularism - separation of state and religion

Communism - community ownership, responsibility and sharing

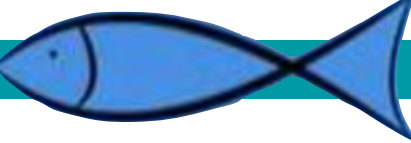
Atheism - rejection of belief in deities

Materialism - value on ownership and economic success

Capitalism - free market, private ownership and prioritising profit



**BELIEF SYSTEMS SUCH AS SECULARISM AND
HUMANISM ARE EVERY BIT AS MUCH A 'FAITH' AS
THE 'RELIGIONS'**



OTHER 'CHRISTIAN' FAITHS

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There are many and varied Christian denominations that hold to orthodoxy - disagreeing on what we describe as 'secondary issues'

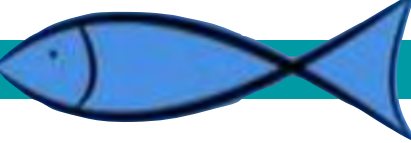
'Elim' is a pentecostal and evangelical (bible believing) movement

Others have deviated from key doctrines and we would clearly not align with some of their teachings

Jehovah's witnesses, Christadelphians, Latter Day Saints (Mormonism), Unitarianism, Seventh Day Adventists, Oneness Pentecostals, Christian Scientists...



**SOMETIMES THE MOST DANGEROUS LIES ARE THE
ONES CLOSEST TO THE TRUTH**



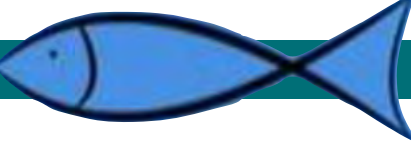
HOW WE APPROACH OTHER FAITHS?

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The same as we approach all...

Pray for them (the battle is spiritual), respect them (they are made in God's image), love them (even our enemies), tell them the truth (how can they know if they have not heard?), demonstrate kingdom living (show them Jesus)

Arguing is rarely the way to introduce people to Christ

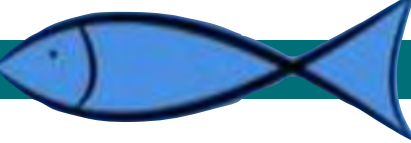


5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

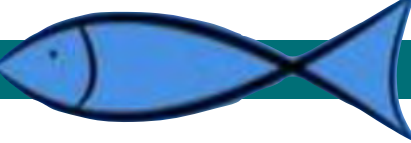
6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



**THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY,
BUT IT IS OPEN FOR WHOEVER WILL BELIEVE**



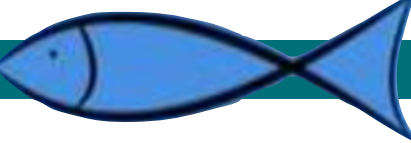
9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.



11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”



**THE TRUTH THAT SEEMS SO EXCLUSIVE IS ACTUALLY
SO INCLUSIVE THAT IT IS OPEN TO EVEN THE LEAST
AND THE LOST**



16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.