

Only One Way In

Disney theme parks are often referred to as the “happiest celebration on earth.” Children and adults alike visit Disney World and Disneyland, anticipating a joyful day. Think about this: there is only one entrance to the park. As expansive as it is, with different major sections, there is a single point of entrance that leads you onto “Main Street U.S.A.” People are so enthusiastic about what is to come that they don’t complain about only one way to get in.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the only way to eternal life. Non-Christians ask why Jesus is the only way. They are hoping for an easier way, one that doesn’t exclude them. They ask: What right do Christians have to claim exclusivity for acceptance into heaven? The Bible tells us, *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).* In the era of personal freedom, people want options to pick the one that fits them. Some people want to prove that they are worthy of acceptance into Heaven. They want to earn salvation points and good behavior medals so that that entrance will result from their own doing. I think of the 1970s Burger King commercial, “Have It Your Way.” People want the riches of Heaven without understanding and believing the Truth of the Gospel. As Christians, we are taught that there is nothing we can do on our own to earn God’s favor.



Acceptance into Heaven is **not** exclusive. Jesus desires for all people to be saved, and He offered His life as a ransom for all people. *This is good and pleases God, our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people... (1 Timothy 2:3-6).* Remember the John 3:16 passage: *For God so loved the world ... that whomever believes in Him will have eternal life.* It is only because of God’s Grace that we have the Hope for eternal life. All that is required is accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. *They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” (Acts 16:31)*



We need Jesus to lead the way because, as sinners, we are not eligible for heaven. It is only because He assumed the punishment for our sins that we are considered clean in God’s eyes. We don’t go to Heaven because we are good, but because **He** is good. Jesus conquered death through the resurrection. Leaders of other religions can tell you how to get to Heaven, but none of them are alive today. Jesus lives so we can live. Jesus said, *For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.” (John 6:40).* Jesus will put out the Welcome Mat when it is our time. The Bible tells us that if Jesus prepares a place for us, He will return to take us there (read John 14:3).

Salvation is only through a single entry-point to Heaven. We enter Heaven only through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Disney World may be the “happiest celebration on earth” for a day or two. Salvation is eternal happiness in daily fellowship with God. It is as good as it gets. And, there’s only one way to enter.

Prayer: Our Salvation is only possible because You died for our sins. We believe that You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Note: The Disney analogy is from the book, Answering the Toughest Questions About God and the Bible, by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz.