**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

April 3, 2022

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**Greater Love**

**Love’s Way**

John 14 &17



**No one likes to be lost. To take a wrong turn only to find yourself looking for the way.**

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.* Proverbs 14:12

We use all kinds of navigational tools to keep us from getting lost. Everything from GPS systems, digital maps, satellite links and more. But none of those tools or instruments can point your way home to God.

Inherit in the gospel message that the disciples would share with the world was this truth …

Love is the way **embodied** in the Way.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* John 3:16–17

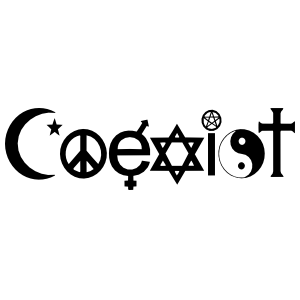
Love’s **Way** is the only way.

***Let not your hearts be troubled****. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms.* ***If*** *it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And* ***if******I go and prepare a place for you****,* ***I will come again*** *and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.* And **you know the way** to where I am going. John 14:1-4

*Thomas said to him, “Lord,* ***we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way****?” Jesus said to him, “****I am the way, and the truth, and the life****.* ***No one comes to the Father except through me.*** John 14:5-6

From the beginning, Christians have insisted that Jesus is the only way of salvation, and in doing so, we have followed the lead of our Lord and His apostles. Christianity insists on the uniqueness of Christ as the only Savior of sinners. He alone is qualified to save, and He is the only redeemer God has sent.

***This Jesus*** *is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is* ***salvation in******no one else****, for there is* ***no other name*** *under heaven given among men* ***by******which we must be saved****.”* Acts 4:11-12

Maybe you have seen this bumper sticker …

The call to **coexist** is a reaction to the **exclusive truth claims of religion, especially Christianity**. In fact, its exclusivism is the most offensive aspect of Christianity today. “Repent. Believe. Come to Jesus. He’s the only way!” Fred Zaspel, pastor and professor of systematic theology writing in an essay for Gospel Coalition, wrote …

*Our pluralistic society scarcely knows a greater offense than that of* ***Christian exclusivism.*** *To insist that Jesus is the only way of salvation and that faith in him is required for that salvation is viewed as* ***intolerant****. From their standpoint, the exclusivity assumes the existence of* ***absolute truth****, that it may be ascertained, and that it delegitimizes all competing* ***religious claims****. The objections against the doctrine of the* ***exclusivity of Christ****, then, in many ways mirror the postmodern critique of the older modernist project as arrogant and imperialistic, illegitimately seeking to force an individual’s truth universally on all others.* Fred Zaspel, Gospel Coalition

**Tolerance** and **no absolutes** are self-refuting.

* **Tolerance** – We will not tolerate intolerance.
* **Absolutes Don’t Exist** – Are you absolutely sure?
* **Pluralism** – All paths lead to god … but whose god?

There are a million ways to **hell** … but only **one Way** to heaven.

Claiming Jesus is the only way to heaven **is exclusive.** It says there is no other way to God except by faith in Jesus Christ. Even though it may be offensive, it is still true.

Love’s Way brings **unity** with God and others.

*If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on* ***you do know him and have seen him****.”* *Philip said to him, “Lord,* ***show us*** *the Father, and* ***it is enough for us****.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip?* ***Whoever has seen me has seen the Father****. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that* ***I am in the Father and the Father is in me****? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.* ***Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in******me****, or else believe on account of the works themselves.* John 14:7-11

*And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me,* ***that they may be one, even as we are one****.* John 17:11

*The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may* ***be one even as we are one****,* ***I in them and you in me****, that they may* ***become perfectly one****, so that* ***the world may know*** *that you sent me and* ***loved them even as you loved me****.* John 17:22–23

Love’s Way is the **gateway** to His glory.

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.* ***Whatever you ask in my name****, this I will do,* ***that the Father may be glorified in the Son****.* ***If*** *you ask me anything in my name,* ***I will do it.*** John 14:12-14

*And* ***this is the confidence that we have*** *toward him, that if we ask anything* ***according to his will*** *he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.* 1 John 5:14–15

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* Matthew 5:16

Love’s **Way** is the only way.

Love’s Way brings **unity** with God and others.

Love’s Way is the **gateway** to His glory.

Love’s Way is **empowered** by the Spirit.

*“****If*** *you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and* ***he will give you another Helper****, to be with you forever, even* ***the Spirit of truth****, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.* John 14:15-17

*These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But* ***the Helper, the Holy Spirit****, whom the Father will send in my name,* ***he will teach you all things*** *and* ***bring to your remembrance*** *all that I have said to you.* John 14:25–26

Love’s Way is built on a relationship of **commitment**.

*“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me.* ***Because I live, you also will live.*** *In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and* ***you in me****, and* ***I in you****. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them,* ***he it is who loves me****. And* ***he who loves me will be loved by my Father****, and* ***I will love him and manifest myself to him.****”* John 14:18–21

*Jesus answered him, “****If anyone loves me, he will keep my word****, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.* John 14:23–24

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.* ***Let not your hearts be troubled****, neither let them be afraid.* John 14:27

**What do you need to do?**

* **Love’s Way is the only way!**   
  – Believe in Love’s Way.
* **Love’s Way brings unity with God and others!**   
  – Where are there walls that need to be taken down or closed doors that need to be opened?
* **Love’s Way is the gateway to His glory!**   
  – There is a life that is indeed abundant in joy, power, love, faith, service … a greater love, a greater life, a greater faith … Jesus has come to give you life.
* **Love’s Way is empowered by the Spirit!**   
  – Maybe your relationship with one who is in you is not there. You do not cultivate the spirit but rather quench the spirit.
* **Love’s Way is built on a relationship of commitment!**   
  – We are a people committed to Love’s Way for there is not other way. We learn, live and love the way of Jesus.