



## What does this Contradict image mean?

Tolerance and co-existence are both great! In fact, they are necessary. If we are to live together in peace without hating each other, or physically harming each other, over differences in race, culture, sexual orientation, political views, and religious beliefs, we must have tolerance. However, we must also recognize that every belief can't be equally valid. **If two beliefs directly contradict each other, both of them cannot be true, no matter how "tolerant" we become.** This means it is false to say that every religion is true, or that every religion leads to God. When people make such claims they are showing that they have not taken the time to study the world's religions, because a brief reading of the sacred texts of only a handful of religions quickly reveals contradictions on the most fundamental levels.

## Religious Contradictions

**Reincarnation** (*Hinduism and Buddhism*) **contradicts** the belief that this life is the only life before eternity (*Christianity, Judaism, and Islam*).

**Pantheism** (*Hinduism*) **contradicts** the belief that there is only one transcendent God (*Christianity, Judaism, and Islam*), and both of these beliefs **contradict** the belief that there is no God (*Theravada Buddhism and Atheism*).

**Salvation from sin** (*Christianity*) **contradicts** the belief that there is no sin to be saved from but simply pain that can be escaped through enlightenment (*Buddhism*).

**Jesus Christ being the incarnate, Son of God** (*Christianity*), **contradicts** the teaching that he is just a prophet (*Islam*) or that he was a false prophet (*Judaism*).

**Jesus dying** as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world and rose from the grave **contradicts** the belief that Jesus ascended into heaven while never dying on a cross, or facing death of any kind (*Islam*).

All religions that suggest that the **merits of an individual** can free a person from humanity's ultimate problem of death **contradict** Christianity's teaching that "we are saved by grace through faith in Christ, which is a gift, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8).

**In light of these contradictions, all religions can't be true. They could all be false, but they can't all be true.**

## How can one know which religion is true, if any?

To discern if a belief is true, it needs to be testable. The scientific method can't test most of the claims found in the world's religions, but science is not our only means of verifying the legitimacy of truth claims. In the case of judging religious truth claims, historical-forensic evidence needs to be utilized. Christianity is the **ONLY** religion that has at its center, a historical event that can be evaluated in such a manner to prove or disprove its religious truth claims. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15 that if Christ did not rise from the grave that his faith is futile and his testimony about Jesus would be a lie. If someone could prove that Jesus did not rise from the grave, then the resurrection would be considered a false claim and the Christian faith should be rejected. On the flip side, if Jesus **DID** rise from the grave, it confirms that Jesus' claim to be "*the way, the truth, and the life, the only way to Father*" (John 14:6) is true! If he did not rise from the grave, then Jesus was a liar and Christians ought to be pitied above all men.

## Is there evidence that Jesus rose from the grave?

The good news for Christians and all of humanity is that the New Testament is the **best** attested ancient manuscript in terms of the number of copies it has, the dates of the copies to their original writings, as well as the accuracy of those copies. In addition to this, the original Gospels were written by eyewitnesses, or written by people who wrote using eyewitness testimony. This also means the authors were writing too close to the death and resurrection of Jesus for myths to have crept into the accounts. Other witnesses, both friend and foe, would have known if the Gospel writers were telling lies and they would have revealed the Gospels to be false. However, we have no such competing accounts from contemporaries. We do on the other hand have non-Christian authors writing in the first and second centuries who **affirm** the claims of the Gospels, and no one in the first century was ever able to produce the bones of Jesus to disprove the empty tomb that Sunday morning. The Jewish and Roman leaders and authorities had the **motive** and the means to disprove the resurrection, **but they could not**. The best they could do was to persecute Christians as an attempt to stop the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They continued to proclaim the risen Christ all the way to their martyrdom. If the account of Jesus' resurrection that originated with the apostles is a LIE, it would mean that they chose to die gruesome deaths instead of exposing the hoax that they created. **Many might die for that they THINK is true, but who would die for what they KNOW is a lie?**

### Exclusive Claims and Teachings Concerning Salvation within the Bible

**John 3:36** "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

**John 14:6** "Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**Acts 4:12** "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

**Ephesians 2:8-10** "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

**John 3:16** "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."

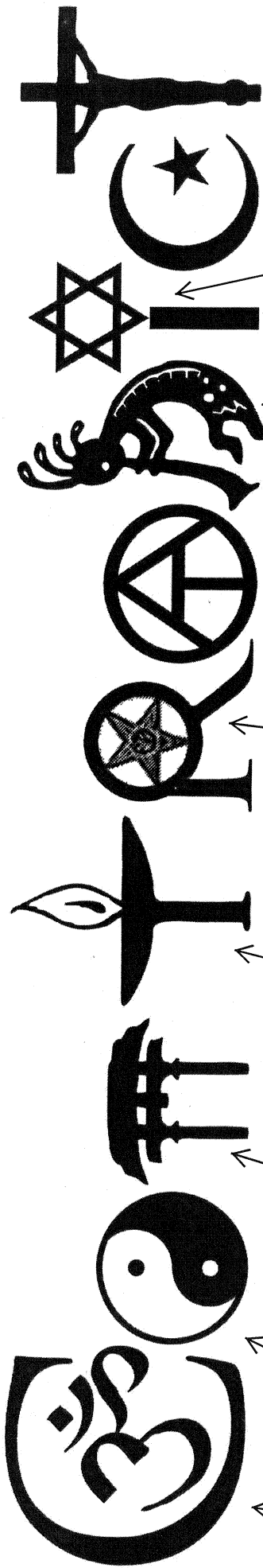
**Acts 2:37-39** "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call."

**Jesus is the Savior of all people groups. He is the Savior of the Buddhist, the Hindu, the Muslim, the Jew, the Satanist, the Atheist, the homosexual, the heterosexual, the republican, and the democrat – all people. Everyone has fallen short of the glory of God and deserve God's wrath, yet... to all who have received him, to all who have called upon his name, he has given the right to be called children of God! (John 1:12) Repent and be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins. (Matt. 28:19 and Acts 2:38)**

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THEY CAN'T ALL BE TRUE - JOHN 14:6  
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Hinduism

Daoism or Taoism

Shintoism

Unitarian Universalist Church

Satanism

Atheism

Kokopelli-Native American

Judaism

Islam

Christianity

Reincarnation  
- Hinduism  
- Buddhism  
contradicts:  
One life before eternity  
- Christianity  
- Judaism  
- Islam

Pantheism  
- Hinduism  
contradicts:  
One God  
- Christianity  
- Judaism  
- Islam  
contradicts:  
No God  
- Theravada Buddhism  
- Atheism

Jesus is the  
incarnate Son of God  
- Christianity  
contradicts:  
Jesus is just a  
Prophet  
- Islam  
contradicts:  
Jesus is a False  
Prophet  
- Judaism  
contradicts:  
Jesus is a  
Bodhisattva  
- Mahayana Buddhism

Salvation from  
sin  
- Christianity  
contradicts:  
No sin to be  
saved from  
- Buddhism

Jesus died as an  
atoner  
sacrifice for  
our sins & rose  
from the grave  
- Christianity  
contradicts:  
Jesus did not  
die  
- Islam

Human merit frees  
man from death  
- Islam  
- Judaism  
- Buddhism  
- Hinduism  
contradicts:  
Man is saved by  
grace, through faith  
in Jesus Christ  
which is a gift, not  
a work  
- Christianity

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# Contradict Evangelism Table at Saddleback Community College's Free-Speech Area

## The conversation starter:

“This sign simply means that all religions can’t be true because they contradict each other. They could all be false, but they can’t all be true. I believe the Bible is true, that Jesus is the Son of God who died for the sins of the world. I’m here to talk with anyone who wants to know more or who has questions.”

**If you want to start an evangelism table, I want to help you.  
andy@contradictmovement.org**

## Why do table-top evangelism?

- **Eye-catching – Controversial – What does it mean?**
- **Many think Contradict represents atheism,** so imagine their surprise when they find out you are a Christian. They are hooked and want to know more!
- **This isn’t preaching – it’s discussing.**
- **One on one, Christ-centered conversations.**
- **An opportunity to share and defend the Gospel.**
- **Anyone can ask anything!**
- **Pick the type of sign that works best for you.**

## Contradict

Andy Wrasman. *Contradict: They Can't All Be True*. Nashville, TN: Westbow, 2014. 255 pp. \$19.95.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could simply (and legally) replace all of those COEXIST bumper stickers with another that reads CONTRADICT? High school teacher Andy Wrasman has recently written a helpful book that discusses the problems of pluralistic thought and why Christians should remember that even though religious believers of all types should coexist harmoniously, the essential claims of the major religions stand in opposition to one another.

In *Contradict: They Can't All Be True*, Wrasman distinguishes between two types of pluralism: social and literal. Social pluralism is used to describe diversity in society. Literal pluralism is the view that everything is one, or true, despite apparent distinctions (5). Wrasman mainly interacts with literal pluralist notion that "all religions are spiritual paths leading to the same destination."

### **Twenty Facts About the Five Major Religions and the Law of Noncontradiction**

It is important for Christians to understand the beliefs of the major religious systems. Wrasman aids us in this area as he presents "key figures, places, events, historical dates, doctrines, and rituals for Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam" (19). From Vishnu to the Eightfold Path, Wrasman helps readers understand the central beliefs of these religions.

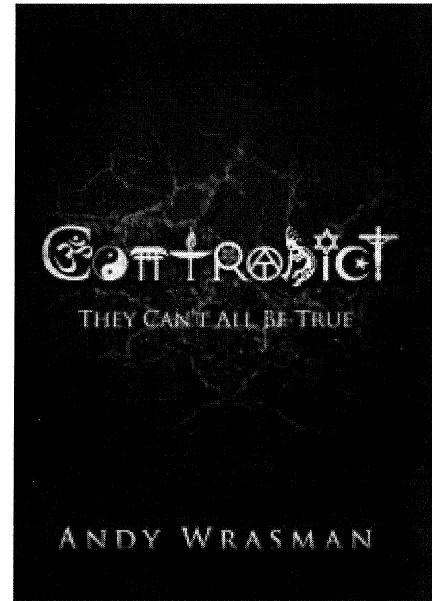
Wrasman also explains the important role that the law of noncontradiction plays in religious truth claims (64). This law helps us to see that if "a statement is true in one context, the exact opposite of that statement cannot also be true in the same context" (64). Wrasman goes on to demonstrate the contradictory beliefs that abound between the major world religions and explains the need for a solid testing method that evaluates all religious truth claims.

### **A Religious Litmus Test That Works**

Wrasman suggests that each religion should be subjected to a religious litmus test. This test, which he draws from history professor Chauncey Sanders's work, consists of an external, internal, and bibliographical method (92). Wrasman then shows the overwhelming evidence that supports the accuracy of the New Testament documents. With more than 5,000 fragments or copies of the New Testament available, it is hard to see how the New Testament documents do not pass the bibliographic test with flying colors (106).

Wrasman then turns to examine the internal and external evidence of the New Testament. After a long journey of exploring both the internal and external claims, Wrasman concludes that the Gospels pass the internal test because they were authored by eyewitnesses or those who used eyewitness testimony (151); they also pass the external test because authors outside the Bible affirm the claims and authorship of the Gospels (151–152). So Wrasman concludes that Christianity does indeed pass the religious litmus test.

### **Evangelism and the Contradict Movement**



Wrasman concludes that after hearing the historical claims of the Gospels and evaluating the evidence, one must decide whether or not to submit to the only unified message that rings true (158). According to Wrasman, Christianity stands out among all the other religions because it is the only paid religion (Jesus was your substitute) and the only religion from God himself (168–169). As he concludes, “Christianity has the ring of truth with its detailed disclosure of facts, consistent message, fulfilled prophecy, and unique standing as the only religion that offers divine redemption through the work of its founder, who claimed to be God incarnate.”

In the final chapter, Wrasman discusses 20 of the most common questions he's encountered while sharing the “contradict message” on college campuses. With evangelistic experience on multiple campuses, this section is particularly helpful,

### **Conversation Starter and Guide**

*Contradict* will help a lot of conversations get started. Wrasman provides Christian believers with a great starting point for understanding and evaluating many of the world’s religions. He should be commended for writing a substantive apologetic book that's also practical on so many levels. The strongest sections are where he offers a concise guide on interacting with skeptics and other religious adherents. Many readers will find Wrasman's sections on the “20 facts on the 5 major world religions” and “20 questions that are most commonly asked when sharing the contradict message” invaluable.

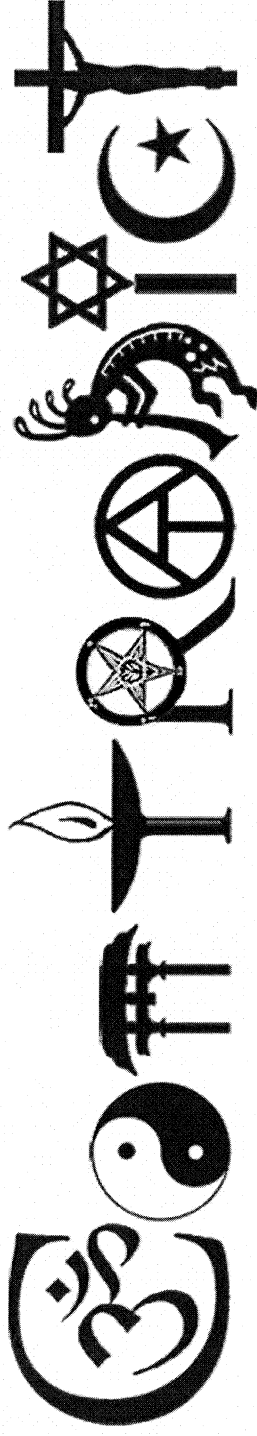
This is a solid book apologetically, theologically, and practically. I pray it will open the eyes of many believers to the importance of evangelizing in a pluralistic age.

**Matt Manry** is the director of discipleship at Life Bible Church in Canton, Georgia. He is a student at Reformed Theological Seminary and Knox Theological Seminary. He is also an editor for *Credo Magazine* and *Gospel-Centered Discipleship*. Matt blogs at *Gospel Glory*.

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THEY CAN'T ALL BE TRUE—JOHN 14:6

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**Equipping Christians to Share and Defend the Good News of Jesus Christ in a Pluralistic Age**



**Andy Wrasman** is a high school World Religions and Christian Apologetics teacher at Crean Lutheran High School in Orange County, CA. He is the author of *Contradict – They Can't All Be True* and is the host of the weekly podcast, *Reconnect*.

He has spoken on Contradict themed subjects at churches, college campuses, conferences, small groups, and classes in California, Wisconsin, Tennessee, and China.



*Contradict* Excerpt

To discuss how your church or group can use Contradict for evangelism or education contact Andy at [andy@contradictmovement.org](mailto:andy@contradictmovement.org).

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For the complete *Contradict* message, read the book, *Contradict – They Can't All Be True*, by Andy Wrasman.

Andy desires to share Contradict at your church, small group, school, class, or club. Contact him at [andy@contradictmovement.org](mailto:andy@contradictmovement.org).