



TIME OF GRACE®

Gracenotes

guides for personal Bible study

Culture Collision: COEXIST

John 14:5-14: ⁵“Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.’ ⁸Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’ ⁹Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

Points to Ponder

1. Are you familiar with the COEXIST bumper stickers that are out there? Can you briefly summarize what idea the bumper sticker promotes?
2. Does it work to coerce others to believe God’s Word by force or government mandate? How does faith come about?
3. The gospel is inclusive and exclusive. Explain.

4. **Read John 14:6.** What makes Christianity different than any other religion? Is it just one of many philosophies? Are there different paths to heaven?

5. **Read John 9-14.** Jesus is the only way, the truth, and the life. In this section, point out Jesus' references to being part of the triune God, his own divinity, his miracles that testified to the truth he was teaching, God's salvation plan, and that he is the incarnate Son of God.

Our society today promotes many philosophies and religions—that we can accept each other's beliefs because there are many paths to heaven. Though there is nothing wrong with promoting peace among people, Christianity clashes with other religions in that it's not just a philosophy. It's a life or death reality. Jesus truly is the only way, the truth, and the life. Faith in him is God's gift to us and our only way to heaven.

What else does God say?

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 them.

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