

**EXCLUSIVITY: “ISN’T IT DANGEROUS AND ARROGANT
TO THINK YOU’VE GOT THE ONLY TRUTH?”**

WHILE WAITING TO BEGIN PLEASE DISCUSS...

Which areas of belief or life might provoke such a comment?
Why might someone say this?
How would you feel if someone said something like this to you?
How would you respond?

THE ACCUSATION: YOU’RE UNDERMINING MY RIGHTS

PERSONAL HUMILITY – I CERTAINLY DO NOT HAVE THE TRUTH. LISTEN TO JESUS.

- *other-person-centredness*
"Love one another as I have loved you." (Jn 15:12)
- *humility*
"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all." (Mark 10:43-44)
- *truthfulness*
"From within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,... pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they make a person dirty." (Mark 7:21-23)

[Luke 18:9-14]

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LET ME UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM: THE STORY OF PLURALISM

- What: Don't be too dogmatic
- When: post-war... post 9/11... NOW
- Assumptions:
 - No God
 - No absolutes: pluralism
 - Value chaos
 - Pursue your values "unflinchingly"...
 - Your opponents? If "I cannot conceive" of this person's views and way of life then "they are not human for me." (Isaiah Berlin)

DO YOU WANT TO LIVE HERE? THE REALITY OF A PLURALIST WORLD

- Individualism: my rights are at the centre of the universe (e.g. now)
- Collectivism: my rights can be subsumed by others' (e.g. Stalinism, Nazism)

[There is] "an innumerable multitude of men, all equal and alike, incessantly endeavoring to procure the petty and paltry pleasures with which they glut their lives. Each of them, living apart, is as a stranger to the fate of all the rest; his children and his private friends constitute to him the whole of mankind. As for the rest of his fellow citizens, he is close to them, but he does not see them; he touches them, but he does not feel them; he exists only in himself and for himself alone; and if his kindred still remain to him, he may be said at any rate to have lost his country."
(Alexis De Toqueville, *Democracy in America*)

- Do you want to live in a world where
 - People you disagree with are not allowed to speak and be heard?
 - There is nothing to bind us together?
 - There are no moral absolutes?

A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

- one God
- God's law
- Accountable to God the creator
- Who sent His Son

Step into this world – it's a better place to be!... Would you like to study the Bible with me?

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