

# The Oyster

...Because, under the prickly, there lies a Gem.



August 2014

## Tangled in Fishing Nets

By David Trounce

What separates Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed or Krishna? Are these men all saying the same things?

We live in a world that wants to mix its whites with its colours, its wool with its flax – all things are to be merged, blended, unified as one.

Though the world preaches diversity, it actually hates diversity. It wants every one, for example, to affirm that sodomy is natural and woe betide a diversity of opinion.

Why do we crave this uniformity? Because we live in a *universe* and there's only room for one truth.

But, rather than pick the only rational, consistent and coherent religion, and throw the others out, we attempt to merge them, bubble-and-squeek them, reel them in – only to find ourselves tangled and ensnared by our own nets.

Buddha said there is no God. Islam said there was, but He had no Son and the Apostle Paul said that not only is there a God, but there is only one God and that that God has a Son and that that Son is Truth and that that Son rose from the dead.

And that Son said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life...”



Immediately they  
left their nets and  
followed Jesus.

All belief systems – atheism included – at their core claim to have exclusive truth.

They all claim to say something true about the origin of life and its meaning. They also have a code of ethics, categories of right and wrong, justice and love.

In Hinduism, widow burning is a tidy way to deal with female over-population. In Islam, the abuse continues into eternity where each man is given 70 virgins to use at his disposal. In Shintoism a human life weighs less than a feather. In Buddhism, poverty is a blessing, but in Judaism, it is a curse.

In Christianity, mankind is made in God's image. In atheism, mankind is meaningless.

Attempting to merge these very different religions will not set you free – it will send you mad. Ask Nietzsche.

## ... What Love is.

*“And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments.”  
(2 John 1:6)*

Everyone claims to love. Either by our actions or by our words, we are telling people what we love, every minute, every day.

To be unloving is still considered a bad thing. No one wants to be called unloving.

And so, to avoid the charge, rather than change what we do, everyone is busy redefining what love is.



But what does love look like and who gets to define it?

*Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth” (1 Cor. 13:6).*

This saying of the Apostle Paul comes right to the point. Love does not rejoice in one thing, but does rejoice with another. Love does not rejoice in sin, but it does rejoice with the truth. Love and truth are partners in joy.

Some want to put a chasm between these two friends, Love and Truth, as though they had never met. And so, someone accuses someone who is standing for the truth as being unloving, or else accuses someone who is full of love as being some kind of a truth-compromiser.

One guy stands for truth, and blows all those in error away with his “thruppa, thruppa” truth machine gun. Another guy picks love, which in his mind is an amorphous gas that fills the room with sweet and sticky acceptance.

So what does love do? Love refuses to have any joy in wrongdoing. Love refuses to celebrate a perverse lifestyle. Love refuses to toast the wickedness of others, according to the truth.

Love will be accused of many things for this, and the central charge will be that this love is unloving. This is because people have come to define whatever is warm and runny and feels nice and upsets no one as love.

This means, rather than be told what love is and what love does, we have become gods and found a way to redefine it to suit (and cover up) our sin, our wickedness, our wrong doing.

But love refuses to rejoice in wrongdoing. Love links arms with the truth, and they rejoice together.

# News, Views and Events

## Women's Community Fellowship Friday August 1st, 2014 at 7pm.

Women from the local community meet on the first Friday of every month for a meal and a chat. This month the men in our church are providing the Banquet, held at the church, corner of Peace Pde and Tanilba Avenue. All Ladies Welcome. Phone Ella on 49824507

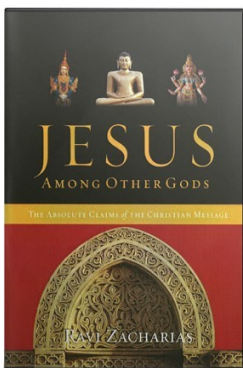


## Jesus Among Other Gods.

By Ravi Zacharias

We are living in a time when you can believe anything, as long as you do not claim it to be true.

In the name of tolerance, our culture embraces everything from Eastern mysticism to New Age spirituality.



But such unquestioning acceptance of all things spiritual is irrational. All religions, plainly and simply, cannot be true.

Are all religions the same? That is the question that is tackled in the book 'Jesus Among Other Gods'. No, says Ravi Zacharias, all religions are not the same. All religions do not point to God.

All religions do not say that all religions are the same. At the heart of every religion is an uncompromising commitment to a particular way of defining who God is or is not, and, accordingly, of defining life's purpose.

To know anything about the religions of the world is to know that each one ultimately makes the claim that its tenets are the truth.

Every religion at its core is exclusive.

## What's it all About?

Come along to one of our 'Simply Christianity' get-togethers and find out what the Bible teaches about our world and the God who made it.

4 Evenings in August and September.

Phone David on 4984 5442

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## Women's Get Together

Join with other local woman this month for an evening dinner and chat.

This month Friday August 1st 7pm, Tanilba CRC Church.

Call Ella on 4982 4507

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## Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month. This month August 2nd 7.30am it will be held at Unit 1/11 LTP Industrial Estate.

For more Information call David on 4984 5442

## About our Church Community...

Tanilba CRC is a Community Church that began on the Peninsula over 50 years ago. If you would like to find out more about our Church's activities on the Tilligerry Peninsula, we invite you to contact us or attend one of our Regular Activities for more information.



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BUDGIE DINGBAT DUO ENVELOPE	FOOT JUNGLE SNEEZING SOAPDODGER	TRICKY VALUE VEAL
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Clue: A “well known” phrase with a twist in the order of the unused letters.

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Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.