

# Hawaii Pastor Alliance



The Blessings of Biblical Values  
Standing for Truth in the Culture

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## **Why is Christianity far more diverse and inclusive than any other religion or ideology.**

(Second Part of a Two Part Series)

### **Most translated book.**

The Bible has been translated into almost 700 languages. The New Testament alone has been translated into more than 2200 languages. Comparatively the Koran has only been translated into 47 languages.

### **Moved furthest from place of origin.**

Christianity is unique in that it's center, that is the geographic location of most believers, has moved all around the world and been accepted into so many cultures from Jerusalem to Europe, to America and down to Africa south America and Asia. The same cannot be said for Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism most followers are still in the place of the religion's origin.

### **Cultures keep their ethnic identity.**

The reason why Christianity is accepted in so many very different people groups is because they don't have to lose their cultural identity. The gospel is very adaptable, not in the sense that the gospel changes or is compromised but that it

makes room for many of the cultural differences experience in different parts of the world. Contrary to the objections that we often hear about a so-called western religion invading and destroying indigenous people groups most of these groups maintain many of their unique manners and customs. Except for those customs that might be against the scriptures such as cannibalism or idol worship. In this sense the Christian religion reflects more inclusiveness and diversity than any religion on the planet.

### **What about the critics?**

If, however when people say inclusion and they are thinking of recent social constructs which promote moral nihilism, family collapse and human destruction, then no, biblical Christianity is not inclusive in an anything goes sort of way.



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### **Let's consider these facts.**

Fact #1:

*Any religious or non-religious group that has membership requirements is by definition exclusive.*

There is a very strong push by groups who desire their once considered aberrant behavior to now be accepted by all. However, when you force people to accept your beliefs, by definition, it pushes against man's free will, even more so when it

contradicts human experience and common sense. This battle is nothing new and the gospel has weathered the rise and fall of many destructive ideologies.

### **How does the gospel do this?**

Because it is transformational and changing one's life and outlook bringing healing and deliverance from any host of self-destructive behaviors including those which modern society chooses to define as ok if not outright desirable. When we accept Christ as savior, we submit ourselves to behave like he would and His Spirit empowers us and sets us free!

Fact #2:

The second criticism that is often leveled at the church is stated in the Psalm 2:3:

*"Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."*

The idea is that if all people would just "follow their heart" that would lead to more just and inclusive society.

Can a civilization survive which allows people to do anything they want without regard for its impact on themselves and on those around them? Most people would say of course not and would strongly object to things such as rape, murder, theft and any number of crimes.

Then people cannot contend that there are no moral absolutes! There is some shared sense of morality that comes from being made in God's image. It is left imprinted on all people whether we acknowledge Him or not.



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**Lasting loving and meaningful relationship will always require some**

## **restrictions of freedom**

What is so interesting about this need for total personal autonomy and freedom is that the very thing that many desire to pursue, happiness and sexual fulfillment often require a level of self-imposed restrictions to truly succeed. You cannot enter a deep relationship such as marriage and still make unilateral decisions. You're going to defer to your spouse, if you want to do things that make them happy as well.

## **Freedom in Christ**

We see that God's love for us is demonstrated by sending his only son to die on the cross for our sins. God could have done whatever he wanted but he chose to enter a painful process to redeem humanity. For love's sake He chose to restrict himself and to walk among us, to endure persecution at the hands of his own creation! True love isn't some sappy emotion that seeks to fulfill its own wants and desires. Real love is willing to do what it takes for the good of others.

From the garden of Eden to the tower of Babel and throughout history the vanity of the human race has been its own downfall, thinking we can go our own way and somehow find real happiness. Not only is this not true but we know that the real conspiracy is to hide the fact that true happiness is only found in the life-giving power and forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor David Wilson

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**Hawaii Pastor Alliance**  
**Lifting Up Christ in the Culture**

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Happy New Year! 2020 AD

Let's remember that the maker of each individual and sustainer of human culture IS the only source of real happiness. Praise Him who "included" us sinners saved by grace into His marvelous kingdom. May the love of the Lord Jesus bless you and yours throughout the New Year!

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