

Uniqueness of Christ in multi-faith Britain

The following was a speech delivered by Dr. Chik Kaw TAN to the Church of England General Synod in February, 2009.

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Mr. Chairman,

I was brought up in Chinese folk religion. This is a religion which incorporates Buddhism, animism, Confucianism, Daoism and ancestor worship. I bowed down before various idols and offered incense to them for 17 years of my life. And then I came to understand that Jesus Christ is truly unique, in that there is none other like Him.

Firstly, the Lord Jesus can be known

I knew nothing about the spirits I was worshipping. I did not know anything about their character, their nature or their teachings. They were simply not knowable. Yet, through the Bible, and through the Holy Spirit, I can know about Jesus.

Secondly, the Lord Jesus wants me to, and allows me to, know Him

This is astonishing and earth-shattering to me! The idols and spirits I worship demand sacrifices and incense and, if I did not do so, evil will befall me and my family. We lived in fear of such spirits. Don't talk to me about the 'happy heathen'; there isn't any! Yet our Lord, out of His love, wants me to know Him.

I grew up in a predominantly Muslim country. My Muslim friends tell me that Islam teaches a God who is so holy, so high and so almighty that it is almost blasphemous to talk about knowing him in the same way that we call God, 'Abba, Father, Daddy'. But the Lord Jesus does more than that; He calls me 'brother' and friend and wants me to know Him.

Thirdly, the Lord Jesus died for my sins

Which religion teaches of a God who took the form of a human being, albeit a sinless one, to accomplish one over-riding mission – the reconciliation of man with God through His death on the Cross? Other gods and spirits demand obeisance; this God died for me.

I was a Buddhist and I tried to be perfect. I tried to be perfect in order NOT to be reincarnated into a lower form. How I failed! If God were to judge me by my own chosen standards, I am doomed! Yet God through Jesus Christ died for my sins; there is forgiveness through the Cross.

Fourthly, the Lord Jesus claims to be the way to salvation

I have many Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist friends. They would tell me that none of their founders claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus alone claimed that – the way, the truth and the life - and backed that up by rising from the dead!

And so, at the age of 17, I rejected the beliefs I was brought up in and placed my life in the hands of the Lord Jesus. He is truly unique. This is great news; this is the Christian gospel. If we truly love our neighbour, we would want to share Jesus as He truly is – fully God and fully man.

Mr. Chairman, *I support the motion.*