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| Key | |
| Views for sharing faith |  |
| Views against sharing faith |  |
| Examples of how people share faith |  |

Jesus taught his followers:

“I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.” (John 14:6)

Some Christians interpret this to mean that only people who follow Jesus’ teachings will go to heaven, so they feel they have a duty to try and put people on the right path by converting them to Christianity.

Liberal Christians are more likely to accept that Christianity is only one way to find God and different religions are another way that is equally valid. These Christians argue that Jesus never tried to convert Jews in his society, so they shouldn’t either.

Muslims believe that everyone is born Muslim, but some parents choose to bring children up in a different religion. The Qur’an teaches that people who accept Islam will go to heaven, and those who don’t will go to hell. This leads some Muslims to believe that they have a duty to invite members of other faiths to learn about Islam and become Muslim. However, the Qur’an is very clear that nobody is to be forced to converting to Islam. Conversion is a matter for God and the person, no-one else.

You might find Christians preaching on the street, handing out leaflets, or even the Salvation Army playing hymns and carols in town at Christians, so that they can spread the Christian message to others.

Members of both religions clearly feel that they have discovered something so wonderful it would be wrong not to share it with others. Problems begin when others think that people preaching religion at them are invading their space Equally, two or more religions claiming that they are the only ones to know the right way to know God can also cause problems.

In the USA, it is common to find TV stations which only show evangelism programmes. Viewers of these programmes find that their faith is strengthened by watching them. Evangelical groups who run these television stations say that they are using a modern way to spread Jesus’ message to reach people who wouldn’t normally hear the Word of God. Opponents of Christian television channels see it as simply another form of ‘hard sell’ advertising, making religion little different from selling a car.