

# Contents

<b>Preface</b> .....	<b>xi</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>xv</b>
<b>Introduction:</b>	
<b>Christianity and Other Religions: Problem and Promise</b> .....	<b>1</b>
The Many Religions: A Newly Experienced Reality	5
Plurality: A Significant Fact of Religious and Cosmic Life	7
A Community of Communities?	8
Further Readings	13
Further Readings on Biblical/Patristic Foundations for a Theology of Religions	14

## **Part I** **THE REPLACEMENT MODEL** **“Only One True Religion”**

<b>1. Total Replacement</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Fundamentalist/Evangelical Christians	20
Variety in the Same Family, 20 • How Many? 22	
Total Replacement: No Value in Other Religions	23
Karl Barth: “Let God Be God — in Jesus Christ!” 23 • “Religion Is Unbelief!” 25 • Christianity as the True Religion, 26 • Taking the New Testament and Jesus Seriously, 27 • “One Way” Makes Sense, 29	
Further Readings	32
<b>2. Partial Replacement</b> .....	<b>33</b>
God Present in Other Religions? Yes and No	33
Revelation: Yes! 33 • Salvation: No! 36 • Christianity’s Relationship with Other Religions, 40 • The World Council of Churches: Dialogue, Yes! — Theology, No! 42	
Are the Other Believers “Lost”?	44
Further Readings	48

<b>3. The Replacement Model: Insights and Questions . . . . .</b>	<b>50</b>
Insights	50
The Centrality of Scripture in Christian Life, 50 • The Reality of Evil and the Need for Help, 51 • Jesus as the One and Only, 53 • Beware of Religion, 55	
Questions	56
Sources for a Christian Theology of Religions? 56 • Jesus the One-and-Only? 57	

**Part II**  
**THE FULFILLMENT MODEL**  
**“The One Fulfills the Many”**

<b>4. The Breakthrough at the Second Vatican Council . . . . .</b>	<b>63</b>
Looking Back: A Historical Review	64
A Theological Pioneer: Karl Rahner	68
Nature Is Graced, 68 • Religions Are “Ways of Salvation,” 70 • Anonymous Christians, 72 • Limits for the Church and for the Religions, 74	
Vatican II: A Milestone	75
“Precious Things Both Religious and Human,” 75 • Are “Rays of Truth” “Ways of Salvation”? 76 • “Preparation for the Gospel,” 78	
Further Readings	79
<b>5. Greater Openness and Dialogue . . . . .</b>	<b>80</b>
Three Steps Forward	81
A Necessary Balance	84
Expanding the Dialogue	86
A Turn to the Spirit: Gavin D’Costa, 87 • Beyond Fulfillment: Jacques Dupuis, 89 • Other Catholic Views, 93 • Uneasy Voices from Asia, 96	
Further Readings	98
<b>6. The Fulfillment Model: Insights and Questions . . . . .</b>	<b>100</b>
Insights	100
Truth and Grace in the Religions, 100 • Dialogue Essential to Christian Life, 101 • Nonnegotiables in All Religions, 102	
Questions	103
Does the Fulfillment Model Really Allow Dialogue? 103 • Does Commitment Require Certitude? 104 • How Does Jesus Save? 105	

**Part III**  
**THE MUTUALITY MODEL**  
**“Many True Religions Called to Dialogue”**

<b>7. The Philosophical Bridge</b> . . . . .	<b>109</b>
Three Questions	109
Three Bridges	112
The Philosophical-Historical Bridge	113
A New Map of Religions, 114 • One Real, Many Cultural Expressions, 115 • Avoiding the Slippery Slopes of Relativism, 117 • What about Jesus? 119	
Further Readings	123
<b>8. The Mystical and the Prophetic Bridges</b> . . . . .	<b>125</b>
The Religious-Mystical Bridge	125
A Divine-Human-Cosmic Unity, 126 • One AND Many, 128 • Mutual Fecundation, 130 • What about Jesus? 131	
The Ethical-Practical Bridge	134
By Their Fruits You Will Know Them, 135 • Common Problems = Common Ground, 136 • Talking after Acting Is Better Talking, 139 • Jesus the Liberator, 142 • The Uniqueness of Jesus Rediscovered, 146	
Further Readings	148
<b>9. The Mutuality Model: Insights and Questions</b> . . . . .	<b>150</b>
Insights	150
The Need for New Answers, 150 • Jesus as Sacrament, 152 • A Spirit Christology, 154 • A Christology of Mutuality, 156	
Questions	157
Creeping Imperialism? 157 • Creeping Relativism? 162 • Is It Really Christian? 164	

**Part IV**  
**THE ACCEPTANCE MODEL**  
**“Many True Religions: So Be It”**

<b>10. Making Peace with Radical Difference</b> . . . . .	<b>173</b>
The Context: Our Postmodern World	173
Postliberal Foundations	178
Religion: Words before Experience, 178 • No Common Ground, 181 • Dialogue: A Good Neighbor Policy, 183 • Apology for Apologetics, 185 • The Place of Christ, 187	
Further Readings	190

<b>11. Real Differences Make for Real Dialogue . . . . .</b>	<b>192</b>
Many Religions, Many Salvations	192
Different Ends, Not Just Different Means, 192 • Differences of Religions Because of Differences in God, 194 • Many Salvations Make for Better Dialogue, 197 • The Place of Christ, 201	
Comparative Theology	202
A Moratorium on Theologies of Religion! 203 • Understanding Oneself through Comparing with Others, 205 • How to Do It? 207 • The Importance of Friendship, 210 • The Role of Jesus? 211	
Further Readings	214
<b>12. The Acceptance Model: Insights and Questions . . . . .</b>	<b>216</b>
Insights	216
We Are All Inclusivists, 216 • The Value of Differences, 219 • Dialogue Has the Right-of-Way to Theology, 222	
Questions	224
Is Language a Prism or a Prison? 224 • Can Many Salvations Save Our World? 229 • Many Absolutes = No Absolute? 232 • Can Comparative Theology Be “Theology-Free”? 235	
<b>An Inconclusive Conclusion . . . . .</b>	<b>238</b>
The Need for Inter-Christian Dialogue	238
The Need for Interreligious Cooperation	243
<b>Index . . . . .</b>	<b>247</b>