

# An unpopular tenet ponders: Is Christ the savior of the world?

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and in its essential nature" has embraced Peter's biblical proclamation about Jesus:

"There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Edwards acknowledges the traditional teaching is unpopular and that many would "breathe more easily" if Jesus were simply "a savior" instead of "the savior of the world" and claiming uniqueness "seems to many people, Christians or otherwise, foolish and perhaps even blasphemous." But he argues in detail that the New Testament requires one savior, then addresses questions this raises:

- Isn't this belief outdated in today's complex "global village"?

Edwards says early Christianity faced a similarly complex "collage of mystery cults, personality cults, vestigial forms of classical Greek philosophy, polytheism, imperial cults and nascent forms of

Gnosticism and Neo-Platonism."

- Doesn't an exclusive savior threaten world peace?

He believes that, properly understood, the biblical teaching about the one God providing the only savior for everyone is a means of uniting humanity and bringing peace.

- How should Christians view other religions?

Edwards contends that the sentimental idea that all religions are similar paths is simply wrong. The great religions agree on many moral duties, he says, but disagree about God, salvation, eternal life, the problems of existence and how to overcome them.

"The statement that all religions are basically the same is usually heard from people who are not adherents of any religion"

- What about Judaism?

Edwards rejects both the idea that Christianity has supplanted its sister faith and the concept, often heard at interfaith dialogues, that the two faiths are equal covenants of salvation.

Instead, he believes that "Judaism continues to play a role in God's abiding purpose" but ultimately Jesus is the savior for Jews as well as Gentiles.

- How can people believe in a savior from sin in a "post-modern" era when people no longer have a firm sense of truth, or right and wrong, or sin?

This is Edwards' chief worry. He insists on biblical grounds that all people are sinners guilty of real infractions against God, facing the peril of eternal separation from God who is absolutely true and good, and thus in need of a savior.

For that reason, he asserts that worldwide evangelism remains Christianity's unaltered task.

On the Net:

Edwards publicity:  
[www.eerdmans.com/shop/product.asp?p\\_key>equals0802809812](http://www.eerdmans.com/shop/product.asp?p_key>equals0802809812)

WCC interfaith meeting:  
[www.oikoumene.org/interreligion.html](http://www.oikoumene.org/interreligion.html)

## Muslim women sue for religion

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agement Group.

"My reaction at that time and still continues to be shock," said Hammond, 27, who is now self-employed as a clothing designer. "It's so unfair that such things can happen in this day and age."

A human resources manager at Housing Trust Management Group's Miami office said Wednesday that the company's owner and chief operating officer were traveling and couldn't comment immediately on the lawsuit.

A woman who answered the telephone at Chapel Trace Apartments wouldn't comment and said Olga Sierra wasn't there.

Hammond sued under the Florida Civil Rights Act seeking all pay and benefits she lost, compensatory and punitive damages and an injunction against the company prohibiting future discriminatory practices.

The Florida Commission on

Human Relations has issued a finding of cause in the case that religious discrimination took place.

Hammond's case is part of a larger pattern of discrimination against Muslims following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, said Ahmed Bedier, director of the Council on American Islamic Relations in central Florida.

"This is a more subtle backlash that doesn't necessarily make the headlines," Bedier said.

Several lawsuits and complaints have been filed recently by Muslim women alleging discrimination over their head scarfs, including:

- A woman sued Walt Disney World last year, saying she was fired from both of her jobs at the resort because she wore a head scarf.

- A University of South Florida basketball player said she left the team and lost her athletic scholarship last year after her head coach told

her that she could not wear religiously mandated clothing during practices or games. A convert to Islam, she wanted to wear long pants, a top with long sleeves and a head scarf. She later left school and returned to Christianity.

- A Louisiana teenager sued a suburban New Orleans school system and a former high school teacher earlier this year, contending the teacher yanked off her head scarf and used religious slurs.

- A Wisconsin woman sued that state's government last month after she said she was required to remove her head scarf when she visited her estranged husband in prison and could be seen by other male inmates.

- An Oklahoma girl sued her school district after she was suspended for wearing a scarf, which school officials said violated the district's dress code.

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Year	Shirts	Pants	Underwear	Sweatshirts	Shorts	Skirts	Blouses	Lost Per Load
1998	352	112	405	166				.237
1999	325	115	325	153	119	152	367	.336
2000	285	123	415	142	124	143	402	.289
2001	335	104	397	134	137	161	372	.574
2002	295	5	420	125	114	154	391	.278
2003	341	117	408	148	131	149	410	.278
					102	124	384	.175

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