

CHRISTIANITY vs. WORLD RELIGIONS

A MANNAHOUSE RESOURCE



Many people, desiring to be open-minded about all religions, have entertained the assumption that the **Brand of religion** you choose **doesn't** really **matter since all paths** will ultimately **lead to the same God**.

However, upon a careful **examination** of the teachings of popular **world religions**, we are confronted with some **startling differences in beliefs** that cannot be passed over lightly, but must be carefully considered.

On the following pages we will **compare** the major doctrinal differences found in contemporary religions.

CHRISTIANITY VS. WORLD RELIGIONS

HISTORIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES TAUGHT IN THE HOLY BIBLE. FOUNDED 30 A.D. (2.4 billion)	HINDUISM FOUNDED 2000 B.C. 1.2 billion people	BUDDHISM FOUNDED 560 B.C. 535 million people	ISLAM FOUNDED 610 A.D. 1.9 billion people
BAHAI FOUNDED 1844 A.D. 5 to 8 million people	HARE KRISHNA FOUNDED 1965 A.D. over 1 million	TRANCENDENTAL MEDITATION FOUNDED 1959 A.D. over 6 million	NEW AGE MOVEMENT POPULARIZED 1960 's A.D. in the millions

GOD OR GODS

CHRISTIAN There are three persons in one God. All of the same substance & nature, co-equal & co-eternal.	HINDUISM Three main impersonal gods & millions of lesser gods.	BUDDHISM One impersonal God.	ISLAM One personal God.
BAHAI One personal God.	KRISHNA One Supreme God and many lesser gods.	T. M. Each individual is, in his true nature, the impersonal God.	NEW AGE God is not an individual being but a force found in all creation.

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT:

“ . . . there is **one God** and one **Mediator** between God and men, the Man **Christ Jesus**.” I Tim. 2:5

“For even if there are **so-called gods**, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet **for us there is only one God**, the Father of whom are all things, and we For Him; and **one Lord Jesus Christ** . . . ” I Cor. 8:5-6

“ . . . the things Gentiles sacrifice they **sacrifice to demons**, and **not to God**” I Cor. 10:20

People can even make material objects into gods, but there is still only one true God who is above all that are called gods.

GOD'S NAME

CHRISTIAN God the Father, God the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) & God the Holy Spirit.	HINDUISM Vishnu, Brahma, & Shiva are the three major gods.	BUDDHISM None.	ISLAM Allah is the only name of God.
BAHAI All religions are one in essence.	KRISHNA Krishna is the Supreme God and Creator.	T. M. Each individual is, in his true nature, the impersonal God.	NEW AGE The god force or spirit force.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT:

“ . . . by **the name** of **Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead . . . **nor is there salvation in any other**, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:10, 12

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him the **name** which is **above every name**, that at the **name of Jesus every knee** should **bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth. And that **every tongue** should **confess** that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil. 2:9-11

PROPHET'S NAME

CHRISTIAN There have been many true and false prophets, but Jesus Christ is the only name by which we can be saved.	HINDUISM Numerous Gurus, Avatars, Teachers, and Prophets.	BUDDHISM Buddha is their great teacher.	ISLAM Muhammad is above all others.
BAHAI Baha'u'llah is above all other prophets.	KRISHNA Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada has been their primary teacher.	T. M. Marharishi Mahesh Yogi was a disciple of Guru Dev. (Divine teacher)	NEW AGE Many eastern religions gurus, and others, such as Madame Blavatsky and Alice Bailey.

IN THE BIBLE JESUS SAID:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

" . . . I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers . . . " John 10:7, 8

THE BIBLE ALSO TEACHES THAT:

" . . . there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" 1 Tim. 2:5

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." Matt. 24:11

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

CHRISTIAN God and the Son. 2nd Person of the Trinity. On earth He was 100% God and 100% man. He was the only sinless man.	HINDUISM Not God. Not the Son of God. One of the many sons of God.	BUDDHISM Not God. A mere man who was beneath Buddha in importance.	ISLAM Not God. A mere man who was beneath Mohammed in importance. He did not die for man's sins.
BAHAI Not God. There is no Trinity. A prophet beneath Baha 'u' llah.	KRISHNA Prabhupada was greater than Jesus Jesus is not the name given for salvation.	T. M. Jesus Christ did not suffer.	NEW AGE An avatar who attained high level of attunement with the god force.

THE HOLY BIBLE SAYS THAT:

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God** . . . And the **Word became flesh**." John 1:1, 14*

*"And Thomas answered and said to Him, '**My Lord and my God!**'" John 20:28*

*"**God** was manifested **in** the **flesh**." I Tim. 3: 16*

*" . . . he who has **seen me has seen the Father**" John 14:9*

***Additional Scriptures:** I Tim. 2:5, Phil. 2:6-7*

SIN

CHRISTIAN Sin is breaking God's Laws. All men have sinned. The penalty of sin is eternal physical and spiritual death.	HINDUISM There is no absolute good or evil.	BUDDHISM Sin is anything which hinders mans progress.	ISLAM Not following Allah's commands and Islamic Law.
BAHAI Man is basically good and not a sinner.	KRISHNA Our sin is that we have forgotten our relationship to Krishna.	T. M. Sin is caused by people who refuse to look within themselves to find God.	NEW AGE Not under any moral law, god doesn't judge our sins. Must get beyond sin to reach full potential.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT:

“ . . . There is **none righteous, no, not one;**

“ . . . there is **none who seeks after God.**

“ . . . there is **none who does good, no, not one.**” Rom. 3: 10, 11, 12

“for **all who have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God” Rom. 3:23

“for the **wages of sin is death** . . . ” Rom. 6:23

“The **heart is deceitful** above all things, and **desperately wicked;** who can know it?” Jer. 17:9

“**All** we like sheep have **gone astray** . . . ” Isa. 53:6

SALVATION BY

CHRISTIAN None of man's works can save him. Only faith in Christ's death and resurrection can forgive his sins.	HINDUISM Human effort and repeated reincarnations.	BUDDHISM Human works Only man can save himself.	ISLAM Only man can pay for his own sins. Man's works can earn him salvation by obeying moral laws and God.
BAHAI Faith in Baha'u'llah and good works.	KRISHNA Worshipping and chanting to Krishna brings us into a relationship with God.	T. M. Becoming conscious of our divinity.	NEW AGE The process of reincarnation brings final union with the God force.

THE HOLY BIBLE TEACHES:

*“For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that **not of yourselves**; it is the gift of God, **Not of works**, lest anyone should boast.” Eph. 2:8-9*

*“**Not by works** of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us . . . ” Titus 3:5*

*“That if you **confess** with your mouth **the Lord Jesus** and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will **be saved.**”
Rom. 10:9*

*“ . . . **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will **be saved.**”
Acts 16:31*

Before our good works can have any value, we have to believe in what Christ has already done.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED SCRIPTURE?

CHRISTIAN The Holy Bible is 100% the Word of God & is the only final authority for doctrine.	HINDUISM Vedas and Upanishads are the divine writings They supersede the Bible.	BUDDHISM Buddha's teachings supersede the Bible.	ISLAM The Koran is Allah's final word to man. It supersedes the Bible.
BAHAI Baha'u'llah's writings supersede the Bible.	KRISHNA The Bhagavadgita supersedes the Bible.	T. M. Falsely claim not to be religious. Their teachings supersede the Bible.	NEW AGE Eastern religion writings and a variety of new recent books written by New Age leaders.

THE BIBLE SAYS CONCERNING ITSELF:

“ . . . If they do not speak according to **this word**, it is because there is no light in them.” Isa. 8:20

“knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation**, For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

II Pet. 1:20-21

“**Every word** of God is **pure**; . . . ” Prov. 30:5

“**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**”

II Tim. 3: 16

Additional Scriptures: Rom. 16:25-26

VARIOUS TEACHINGS

<p>CHRISTIAN</p> <p>Only Jesus claimed He was the Creator God, and only He said that He had become a sinless man to die for the sins of His fallen creation. The confirmation of these statements occurred when He was physically resurrected.</p>	<p>HINDUISM</p> <p>Reincarnation. Karma. Life in this world is meaningless. Every man is God. In their sacred books, there are fantastic descriptions of human sacrifice surrounded by wild sexual orgies. Reverence animals.</p>
<p>BUDDHISM</p> <p>Reincarnation. Karma. Universal suffering is caused by craving, which can be eliminated by Buddha's "Eightfold Path" of self-righteousness. Though Buddha only claimed to be man, in time, his followers made him a god.</p>	<p>ISLAM</p> <p>Encourage a violent dedication to their religion. They believe that Judas died on the cross and not Jesus. Their heaven is depicted as a place of eternal sensuous pleasure.</p>

VARIOUS TEACHINGS

<p style="text-align: center;">BAHAI</p> <p>Aims at the unity of all religions, which are said to be one in their fundamental principles. Jesus was not physically resurrected. Baha'u'llah is the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HINDUISM</p> <p>The Bhagavad-gita tells of Krishna having 16,108 wives, and during one 6 month long night Krishna made love to 100 women without their husbands knowing it.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BUDDHISM</p> <p>In the T.M. initiation ceremony, bowing down to Guru Dev is mentioned 22 times. In addition to this, 3 main Hindu Gods are glorified. They believe that there is no difference between God and the creation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ISLAM</p> <p>Everything is formed from the same material, with no ultimate boundaries. the god force is in all living things, giving man the ability to be a god, and part of the god force. This gives man power over all things. New Age also teaches Christianity is in harmony with all other religions.</p>

CONCLUSIONS

The primary belief of all **non-Christian religions** is that man can **either**:

- 1) be pleasing to God
- 2) become God or a god
- 3) find God consciousness
- 4) become righteous

through his own **good works**. Though the works may consist of chanting, fasting, meditating, or following religious laws, they ultimately encourage the belief that man can, of his own initiative, perfect himself.

THE CHRISTIAN VIEW

As presented in the Holy Bible, man's **self-righteous efforts** only bring **glory to himself** and **not to God**. It was God's intention in creating man to have intimate fellowship with him. Though man disobeyed God and broke this original relationship, God loved man so much that He was willing to become a man (God the Son - the Lord Jesus Christ) and take the punishment upon Himself which **all men deserved**. After living a sinless life, Jesus died on the cross for the sins we had committed.

We have **evidence** that Jesus Christ is God and that He accomplished His goal of forgiving all men's sins because of the historical fact that He was **physically raised from the dead**. No other founder of any religion ever did this. The resurrected Christ was **seen by over 500 people**, many of whom became His followers and the ambassadors of this "Good News" of what Jesus had accomplished.

TO SUMMARIZE

So we see that the **Christian message is not** mere man **striving for perfection** through his own good works, **but** rather man putting his **trust in** what only **God the Son** could have accomplished when He gave His life so that all men could be restored to fellowship with God.

A DECISION IS NECESSARY

As the Christian author C.S. Lewis has written:

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things **Jesus** said would not be a great moral teacher. He would be either a **lunatic** – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be **the Devil** of Hell. **You must make your choice.** Either this man was, and is, the **Son of God**: or else a **madman** or something worse. You can shut Him up for a **fool**, you can spit at him and kill Him as a **demon**; or you can fall at His feet and call Him **Lord** and **God**. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Mere Christianity (1955) pp. 52-53

HOW TO BE SAVED

In order to receive what Jesus Christ has done for you, you must **willingly**:

- 1) **stop trusting in your own efforts to please God and begin to trust in what Christ has already done.** Pro. 28:26, Pro. 3:5-6
- 2) **invite Him to come and live inside of you.** Rev. 3 :20
- 3) ask Him to **forgive you** for your sins I Jn. 1 :9
- 4) ask Him to take His rightful place as **Lord and God of your life.**
Rom. 10:9 - 10, Phil 2: 11
- 5) desire to **turn away from** whatever the Bible says is sin.
(Only after Christ has come to live inside of us, is this possible).
Acts3:19,Jn. 1:12

If you need help or desire **additional information** about the Christian faith, please contact us at the address written on the back cover.



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