

Baha'i and Christianity Comparison

	Baha'i View	Christian View
Scripture	Writings of Bha'u'llah	Bible alone
God	Unknowable	Knowable and personal
Jesus	Manifestation of God	Absolute deity
Jesus' death	No salvific value	Atoned for sins of man
Second Coming	Baha'u'llah	Jesus Himself
Spirit of Truth (John 14:16)	Baha'u'llah	The Holy Spirit
World religions	Truth in all	Only Christianity true
Sin	Man imperfect, not fallen	Man fallen in sin
Salvation	Keep Baha'i law	Trust in Christ alone

The Baha'i faith has become a popular religion in an environment of ecumenism, inclusiveness and political correctness. Embraced eagerly by the United Nations and other interfaith organizations, Baha'i is a growing humanist influence on our world. There are currently 17,148 Local Spiritual Assemblies of the Baha'i faith in the world and 4,515 in the United States alone. Members claim a presence in 235 countries and their literature is translated into 700 languages with a total world membership estimated at 5,000,000. The following introduction is meant to be a brief overview Baha'i history, and is by no means an exhaustive history of Baha'i.

The popularity of Baha'i can largely be attributed to its attempts to unify all faiths, prophets and the entire human race. It embraces the humanist philosophy that all religions should be embraced equally because they are not contradictory and are merely successively updated versions of the same basic religious beliefs. They teach that all religions are the result of the same God and the differences stem only from the age in which they were revealed. They promote gender, racial, and economic equality; universal education; harmony between science and religion; balance between nature and technology; and the development of a world Federal system. Those who believe in absolute truths, such as those found in the Bible, are dismissed as intolerant and an obstacle to world peace.

Baha'i grew out of Islam, and is in fact a stepchild of the Islamic faith, albeit a despised one. Rather than naming Muhammad as the greatest of the prophets as the Muslims do, Baha'is hold Baha'u'llah to be the greatest of the prophets.

Baha'i was started in 1844 when Mizra Ali Muhammad ("the Bab" or gate) proclaimed he was the greatest manifestation of God yet to appear. The Bab is purported to be a direct descendant of Muhammad and he claimed to be the fulfillment of the scriptures of all of the world's religions. During his brief 6 year ministry, he taught of another manifestation that would follow (similar to

the role of John the Baptist). This manifestation would be even greater than he, and in 1863 Mirza Husayn Ali proclaimed that he was the Great prophet the Bab had spoken of.

Mirza Husayn Ali took the title of "Baha'u'llah" (the Glory of God) and his followers were thereafter called Baha'is. In addition to claiming most favored prophet status, Baha'u'llah also claimed to be the second coming of Christ and the spirit of truth recorded in John 14:16. He viewed himself as the fulfillment of the coming of Maitreya, the Buddha from the Buddhist scripture, the Krishna for the Hindus, and a fulfillment of "the Day of God" from the Muslim Qur'an. In fact the Baha'is believe all of the world's religions have pointed to the coming of Baha'u'llah, and that during his era, a promised reign of peace will be established.

Thirty years after proclaiming himself to be the fulfillment of all religions, Baha'u'llah died and leadership was passed to his son Abbas Effendi (also known as Abdul-Baha and "the Master") who worked as an interpreter for his fathers many writings. He is responsible for bringing the Baha'i faith to the U.S.

Abbas Effendi was succeeded by his grandson, Shoghi Effendi became the "Guardian of the Cause," and during his lifetime, Baha'is agreed there would perpetually be such a guardian. However, Effendi died before appointing a successor. Consequently, six years after he died, the first Baha'i Universal House of Justice was elected to serve as the Guardian. It has since been the governing body of the Baha'i faith. The Universal House of Justice is a nine-person board that applies the laws of Baha'u'llah and is made up of elected representatives. The first UHJ was comprised of Baha'i who represented Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and came from 4 continents and several ethnic backgrounds. The Baha'i temple in Wilmette, Illinois is a nine-sided building representing the world's nine living religions and is a combination of synagogue, mosque, and cathedral, symbolizing the unity of all religions.

The goal of the Baha'i faith and its leadership is for the world to become a single super-state with Baha'i as its religion. It's no wonder Baha'i is promoted vigorously by the U.N. and plays a major part in all United Nations spiritual events.

Baha'i literature proclaims the following:

"National rivalries, hatreds, and intrigues will cease, and racial animosity and prejudice will be replaced by racial amity, understanding and cooperation. The causes of religious strife will be permanently removed, economic barriers and restrictions will be completely abolished, and the inordinate distinction between classes will be obliterated. Destitution on the one hand, and gross accumulation of ownership on the other, will disappear."

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Comparing Christianity and Buddhism

What the Bible says about God:	What Buddhism says about God:
There is one true and living God, who exists as three distinct, co-equal, co-eternal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; John 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 13:13; 1 Peter 1:2). God is personal and is to be the only object of worship (Ex. 20:2-3; Isa. 43:10, 44:6; Matt. 4:10).	Buddhists do not worship a God who created and sustains the world. Theravada Buddhism considers the concept of God irrelevant; it is basically atheistic. Mahayana Buddhism worships the Buddha as a god, along with other gods. Other forms of Buddhism add shamanism and elements of the occult.
What the Bible says about Jesus:	What Buddhism says about Jesus:
He is the virgin-born Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-23; Luke 1:35). He is the eternal God, the Creator, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and Holy Spirit (John 1:1-14; Col. 1:15-20; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 1:1-13). Jesus died for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3), rose physically from the dead (Matt. 12:38-40; Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:4-8; 1 Peter 1:18-21) and is coming back physically and visibly one day (Matt. 24:29-31; John 14:3; Titus 2:13; Rev. 19:11-16).	Jesus was a great religious teacher who may have achieved enlightenment. Even so, he was one among many and therefore not unique.
What the Bible says about salvation:	What Buddhism says about salvation:
Christ's death at Calvary completely paid our sin debt so that salvation comes by grace alone through faith in the person and work of Jesus (John 3:16, 5:24; Rom. 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).	The goal of life is to achieve <i>nirvana</i> , or the cessation of suffering.
What the Bible says about the Bible:	What Buddhism says about the Bible:
The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God, and is His sole written authority for all people (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).	The authoritative writings for Buddhists are the <i>Sutras</i> and the <i>Tripitaka</i> (The Three Baskets). The Bible contains good teaching but is not authoritative.
What the Bible says about man:	What Buddhism says about man:
God created man in His image – with a human spirit, personality and will. A person's life begins at conception and is everlasting, but not eternal; that is, our lives have no end, but they did have a distinct beginning (Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 139:13-16).	Buddhists embrace the concept of <i>anatta</i> (no self). In traditional Buddhism, "no self" means there is no permanent identity to continue from one moment to the next. The human personality is made up of five <i>skanda</i> , or parts, which are only momentary, but they group together to give the illusion of permanence, like the flow of a river or the flame of a candle.

What the Bible says about sin:	What Buddhism says about sin:
Sin is a violation of God’s perfect and holy standards. All humans are sinners (Rom. 3:10) and are under the curse of sin – spiritual and physical death (Gen. 2:17, 3:17-19; Rom. 3:23). Only faith in Christ and His work on our behalf frees us from sin and its consequences (John 3:16, 5:24; Eph. 2:8-9).	There is no such thing as sin against a supreme being. The human condition is suffering, caused by attachment to things and the cravings / desires accompanying the attachment.
What the Bible says about death and the afterlife:	What Buddhism says about death and the afterlife:
Physical and spiritual deaths come upon all people as a consequence of their sin (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:1). A person becomes spiritually alive when he or she is “born again” by the Spirit of God (John 3:3-6; Eph. 2:4-5). At physical death, our souls and spirits separate from our bodies [which go into the grave to await resurrection and final judgment] and enter an everlasting state of blessedness [for those born again] or torment [for those who die in their sins] (Luke 16:19-31; 2 Cor. 5:8).	Buddhists believe the cycle of death and rebirth, known as <i>samsara</i> , has been going on since time without beginning. Their goal is to end this cycle by attaining <i>nirvana</i> , a state of being that is realized through eliminating desire. <i>Nirvana</i> comes at two moments: at awakening or enlightenment, and at <i>parinirvana</i> , when the fire of personality finally flickers out (final death). The path to <i>nirvana</i> is divided into eight categories of disciplines that are meant to avoid bad <i>karma</i> that leads to dangerous and difficult forms of rebirth.
Hell is a place of everlasting conscious existence, where the unbeliever is forever separated from God (Matt. 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 14:9-11, 20:10). As for Heaven, all believers have God’s promise of a home in Heaven, will go there instantly upon physical death, and will return with Christ from Heaven to earth one day (Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:8; Rev. 19:14).	There is no heaven or hell as understood by Christians

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ROMAN CATHOLICISM vs FUNDAMENTALIST/EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY

THEOLOGICAL BELIEF	ROMAN CATHOLICISM	FUNDAMENTALISTS, EVANGELICAL
Apocrypha: (meaning of term)	Books by Christian authors, used by early Christians, but later rejected as non-canonical.	Books by Jewish authors written between the OT and NT times; rejected as non-canonical.
Apostolic Succession	Believe in the Apostolic Succession; ordinations traced back to St. Peter	Concept rejected as historically invalid; it simply didn't happen.
Authority within the church	Vested in the hierarchy of the church	Within the believer (soul freedom)
Baptism, significance of	Sacrament which generates & justifies.	Testimony of a prior regeneration.
Baptism, timing	Usually done as an infant	Usually done later in life after "born again".
Bible, status of	Historically teaches that the original writings by the Bible authors are inerrant.	The original writings by the Bible authors are inerrant.
Change of beliefs, practices	Debate sometimes forbidden	Free discussion allowed
Church structure	Hierarchical	Democratic
Clergy, selection of	Appointed; all male; almost all unmarried.	Elected; mostly male, single or married.
God, access to	Via clergy, saints, Virgin Mary, Jesus	Via Jesus alone.
Hell	More than a physical place, hell is a state of being involving "the pain, frustration, & emptiness of life without God."	A real physical place of eternal torture. Some theologians say hell does not exist.
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Required belief	Denied
Infallibility of the Pope	Required belief in matters of religious doctrine and faith.	Denied
Limbo	A place in hell for infants who die before being baptized, and for OT Saints. Concept is not officially taught	Existence denied.
Lord's supper, Eucharist	A sacrifice. Christ's body and blood are physically present and consumed by participants.	Memorial meal. Christ's body and blood are present symbolically only.
Mary's status	Mary's status is below Jesus', but above those of the saints. Some regard Mary as co-redemptrix with Jesus; not is not current church teaching.	The Virgin Mary plays a relatively minor role. Only trust in Jesus saves a person.
Non-Christian religions	Have some value for the truth they contain.	Many Fundamentalists consider them worthless, dangerous, demon-led.

Prayer	To God. Also may ask Mary or a saint to pray on their behalf.	To God only.
Purgatory	A state of being in which souls are cleansed by purifying punishments before they can enter heaven.	Does not exist.
Sacraments	The means of grace.	The symbols of grace.
Salvation	Dependant on faith, works, and sacraments.	Dependent on faith only.
Salvation, losing	Is lost when a responsible person commits a mortal sin. It can be gained through repentance and the sacrament of confession.	Usually, once a person is saved, they cannot lose their salvation.
Statues, venerating	Frequent veneration of statues and images as symbolic of the individual saints.	Considered idolatry.
Truth	Found in scripture, as interpreted by the church. Also found in church tradition.	Found in scriptures as interpreted by the individual through the Holy Spirit.
Visibility of the Church	The hierarchy of the Church, including the laity, plus the Church's Spirit referred to as the "spotless Bride of Christ."	Invisible fellowship of all believers.

EVOLUTION vs CHRISTIANITY

CAUSE	God was the Cause. For every effect, there is a cause (observable)	There was not cause – 15 billion years ago for no know reason, the universe exploded itself into existence. Time, chance, and natural process created all things. The creation of the universe is an effect with no cause (not observable) .
ORIGIN	The universe was spoken into existence by God’s Word. Matter cannot be created or destroyed by natural processes (observable) .	Began with ‘singularity’, a tiny infinitely hot and dense point. Matter was created by a natural process (not observable) .
ENERGY	We are devolving. Energy goes from a state of usable energy to less usable energy (observable) .	We are evolving. Energy goes from a state of less usable energy to more usable energy (not observable) .
SPACE	Earth created first (day 1). Stars came afterwards (day 4) with the sun and moon.	Stars formed first. Earth formed afterwards.
Earth’s Covering	Water	Fire.
Time Constraints	6 Days – The creation of the World was FINISHED in six days and is no longer taking place (observable) .	Infinite Time – 4.6 billion years ago the earth evolved by natural processes. The world is in a continuous process of evolution (not observable) .
Quality	Very Good.	Primitive, Violent.
Planning of Life	By design.	Accident.
Origin of Life	God. Life comes from life (observable) , no known exceptions.	Forces of Nature. It is possible for life to come from non-life (not observable) .
Time needed for Life	2 Days (Faith based) – all animal/human life was created on day 5 and 6.	Millions of years (Faith based) – They don’t know how it happened but given enough time they BELIEVE it will.
Species	Kind begets kind (observable) .	Kind begets some other kind (not observable) .
Animal Life	Birds first, then Reptiles.	Reptiles first, then Birds.
Human Life	Man was created on day six. Man is made in the image of God.	3.5 billion years ago life evolved Humans evolved from ape-like creatures.
Beginning of Death	After Adam sinned, not a process of creation – it is a product of man’s sin.	Always been present, part of the creation process – the means by which man evolves into a higher being.

Cause of Death	Sin, there was no death before Adam sinned (plant life not included), the breath of life was breathed into animals but not plants.	Natural process, existed from the beginning of life
Spiritual Death	Both physical and spiritual, you will give an account of your life after you die.	Physical only, no accountability after death.
Sediment Layers, Canyons	Form rapidly (liquefaction). Witnessed during Mt. St. Helen (observable).	Form slowly. No evidence witnessed (not observable).
Fossil Creation	Catastrophic event, rapid burial in water, (observable).	Buried by dust over long periods of time (not observable).
Marine fossils on Mountains	Global flood, Genesis account. Rapid 40 day/night event. Springs of the deep broken up. All creation perished. All mountains covered by at least 20 ft. About 200 legends from cultures all over the world.	Local floods, earth sinking into the ocean and rising again. No written record or legend
Trees through layers	Fossilized trees spanning many layers indicates rapid burial by water, observable with Mt. St. Helen. Can be created in one week (observable).	Over many years plant life died, sank into the earth, and coal formed (not observable).
Coal, Oil, Petrified Wood	Coal, Oil, Petrified Wood, can all be made in a matter of weeks, (observable).	Coal, Oil, Petrified Wood take millions of years to form (not observable).
Biblical Day	Recognize that the Biblical day means 24 hours and accept it as fact. Hebrew word "Yom", in all cases, means short period of time. Defined to be evening and morning, Days are distinguished between seasons and years (Genesis 1:14). God's own word (Exodus 10:11). Writing style of Genesis is narrative, not poetic. Genealogy of human race given.	Some, recognize that the Biblical day means 24 hours but reject the account as a myth. Others, interpret the Biblical definition of day to mean millions of years.

Jesus Christ, as God Almighty, not only declares these things in the Bible but He was there to observe creation because He was the Creator. Either, He was crazy, a liar, or He is the Absolute Truth, He was there, and He did it.

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FREEMASONRY vs CHRISTIANITY

The following is a quote from Alice Bailey's book "The Externalization of the Hierarchy". Alice Bailey was an important leader in the New Age Movement and claimed to speak and write the words of her "Spirit Guide" Master D.K. "the Masonic Fraternity...is...the home of the Mysteries, and the seat of the initiation...It is a far more occult organization than can be realized and is intended to be the training school for the coming advanced occultists..."(p. 511). Master D.K. goes on to say, "...Mysteries will be restored to outer expression through the medium of the Church and the Masonic Fraternity...When the *Great One* comes with His disciples and initiates, we shall have the restoration of the *Mysteries*..."

The roots of Freemasonry extend at least as far back as the Middle Ages. The guildsmen and craftsmen of that time were called Masons. For protection and credibility, these persons formed primitive trade unions (lodges). The content and purpose of this form of Masonry, called operative Masonry, began to change when the lodges were opened up to whoever sought membership.

New members, including politicians, clergymen, and scientists, gradually began to formulate various rituals and doctrines to accompany some of the symbols already in use by the working masons (usually tools of the trade). It was at this point that occultism also began to be brought into the lodges. Eventually the various "grades" workers went through in learning their craft were replaced by degrees of advancement in esoteric knowledge. The eventual result of these changes is modern Masonry - also known as "speculative Masonry" because it speculates as to the true meanings behind the original symbols used in operative Masonry.

The popularity of Freemasonry has made it a model for hundreds of other fraternal societies. As far back as 1927, for instance, nearly all of the 800 fraternal orders of that time had adopted Masonic-like symbols, signs, passwords, rituals, oaths, obligations and degrees. The temple ordinances of the Mormon temple ceremony are also suspiciously close to the ceremony used in Freemasonry. Signs, grips, oaths and tokens used in Mormonism are so close it's almost certain that Joseph Smith borrowed these Masonic practices from Freemasonry. Not that surprising considering Smith was a Mason himself (Documentary History of the Church 4:550-551). In fact the first three presidents of the Mormon Church were all Masons. The Salt Lake City Temple also displays designs peculiar to Masonry, including the All-Seeing Eye, the inverted five-pointed star (known as the eastern star), and the clasped hands or grip.

The Masons, like so many false religions, hold as a core belief one of Satan's biggest lies. That being that all faiths and all scriptures lead to the same God. Freemasonry teaches that there is one God and men of all religions worship that one God using a variety of different names. In a Masonic Lodge, all join in corporate prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe, (GAOTU) and embrace the scripture of any and all religions. The following quote is taken from the Masonic Belief Statement:

"...by the very honor which Masonry pays to the Bible, it teaches us to revere every book of faith by which men find help for today and hope for the morrow, joining hands with the man of Islam as he takes oath on the Koran, and with the Hindu as he makes covenant with God upon the book that he loves best".

The seven volume *History of Freemasonry*, by Albert Mackey, discusses various pagan gods and the people who worshiped them. Among those pagan deities featured in drawings included with the text are Ashtaroth, Abraxas, Vishnu, Dagon, Nergal and Baal. The text states:

They were all Characters of human origin in the Mythologic ages designed as the Saviors of Men, each one emphatically the representative Christos, or Christ of his particular Nation; and the religious system designed to restore the lost and fallen race of Man. (p. 1721, vol VI)

The paragraph concludes, speaking of the men who worshipped those false gods: Now as Masons we decide not between these, but take all in as our Brethren, and the One God as our Heavenly Father, revealed to us as such in the Great Light of Masonry.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob makes it very clear that the Bible is the only Word of God and warns us to stay away from those who would teach otherwise.

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 9-11)

It is not true that all those who profess a belief in a higher being are worshipping the one true God. The worshippers of Baal learned this truth on Mt. Carmel. In Matthew God has an answer for those who worship gods other than the God of the Bible.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7:21-23

FREEMASONRY'S HISTORY

Modern Freemasonry dates to 1717, when several members of four lodges met at London's Goose and Gridiron Tavern to form the first Grand Lodge. By 1723 the organization had adopted James Anderson's Constitution as a guide. Anderson's work clearly reflected a divergence from the Old Charges of operative Masonry, which had been in use since the fourteenth century. The Old Charges were distinctively Christian in tone and, according to *Fraternal Organizations* by Alvin J. Schmidt, dealt primarily with God and religion, the craft of masonry, and regal duty. The Constitutions, however, omitted the Trinitarian formula and "spoke of a 'religion in which all men agree'" (*Fraternal Organizations*, p. 121)

In 1738 Anderson produced another accepted document titled "The Old Charges of the Free and Accepted Masons." By that year, operative Masonry had evolved into accepted Masonry. It continued to evolve until, by the second half of the eighteenth century it had become speculative Masonry, which interpreted "the symbols and artifacts of operative masonry in an allegorical, religious manner". For example, whereas operative Masons built stone edifices, speculative Masons seek to build spiritual edifices.

The first Masonic Lodge was established in the United States on April 13, 1733. In the United States it yielded great influence. In fact, many scholars believe that Freemasonry helped inspire the American Revolution (*Revolution and Freemasonry, 1680 to 1800 by Bernard Fay*). There is also evidence that Freemasonry was influential in the formation of the U.S. Constitution. It has even been theorized that the designs on the back of American currency can be linked to Masonic signs and symbols (*Fraternal Organizations*, p.122).

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HINDUISM vs CHRISTIANITY

The differences between Hinduism and Christianity are vast. Having read numerous stories of people who have left Hinduism for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I've identified that a common theme runs through their stories. These people left a life of hopelessness, where they were dependent on their own works to escape from samsara, to a life of hope and assurance of their salvation. They left their millions-in-one impersonal gods, and found the one true God of the universe, who cares intimately for each one of them. For this reason, it is important to identify the most basic differences between Hinduism and Christianity.

 GOD	HINDUISM	CHRISTIANITY
GOD	A vast plurality of gods and goddesses exist as part of the impersonal Brahman.	<p>There is one God, who cares deeply for each one of us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."</i> Deuteronomy 6:4 • <i>"And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."</i> Psalm 50:15
MAN	Humans, as with all living things, are just manifestations of Brahman. We have no individual self, or self-worth.	<p>God created mankind, and gave us free will. He cares deeply for us, and places a great deal of worth on His creation.</p> <p><i>"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."</i> Genesis 1:27</p> <p><i>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."</i> John 3:16</p>
THE WORLD	The world and everything on it are manifestations of Brahman.	God created the universe, the world, and everything on it. (Genesis 1). As God did not create Himself, the world exists separately from God.
SIN	Sin is committed against oneself, not against God.	<p>God gave us rules because He cares about us. He also gave us free will – we can choose to disobey. Disobedience (sin) is an offense against God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge."</i> Psalm 51:4 • <i>"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."</i> Romans 3:23

SIN'S PENALTY	Since "sin" is committed only against oneself, the penalties are accrued only against the self. The penalty is the repeated cycle of rebirths, until you can escape to Nirvana.	Sin cannot exist in the presence of God. Therefore, the penalty of sin is spiritual death, or separation from God. <i>"For the wages of sin is death..."</i> Romans 6:23a
SALVATION	Salvation is the release from the wheel of life, the cycle of rebirths, through which we must work to better ourselves, and realize our oneness with Brahman. It must be worked out by each individual through successive lives.	Salvation is a free gift to us from God. We must only accept it. We cannot earn it. Jesus bought our salvation by taking all our sin upon Himself on the cross, dying as a sacrifice for us, and then rising from the dead three days later. Salvation means spending eternity in heaven with our Almighty God! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."</i> Romans 6:23b • <i>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."</i> John 3:16 • <i>"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast."</i> Ephesians 2:8,9

If you are a Hindu man or woman reading this, please know that a greater hope exists. Indeed, it is more than a hope – it is an **assurance**. You are not relegated to rebirth after rebirth in an attempt to “get it right.” There is a personal God, who cares deeply for you. He knows how many hairs you have on your head, yet he controls every facet of the universe. He loves you, and desires to redeem you unto Himself. All you have to do is accept! Indescribable joy awaits you! To learn more about how to accept the gift of eternal life, go to: <http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php> to read about the Roman Road to salvation.

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ISLAM vs CHRISTIANITY

BELIEF	ISLAM	CHRISTIANITY
God	Only one god - called Allah	Only one God - a triune being called God or Yahweh
Jesus	A prophet who was virgin-born, but not the Son of God.	Divine son of God who was virgin-born. He is God's Word and Savior to humanity.
Crucifixion	Jesus was not crucified. Someone was substituted for Jesus and He hid until He could meet with the disciples.	A fact of history that is necessary for the atonement of sin and the salvation of believers.
Jesus' Resurrection	Muslims do not believe in the Crucifixion, so no need to believe in the Resurrection.	A fact of history that signifies God's victory over sin and death.
Trinity	A blasphemy signifying belief in three gods. In Islam, the Trinity is mistakenly thought to be God, Jesus, and Mary.	The one God is eternally revealed in three coequal and coeternal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
Sin	Sin is disobedience to the established law. Sin does not grieve Allah.	Sin is rebellion against God. Sin grieves God.
Man	Man is created by Allah and is sinless.	Man is created in God's image and is sinful by nature.
Salvation	Salvation is achieved by submitting to the will of Allah. There is no assurance of salvation - granted by Allah's mercy alone.	Salvation is a gift accepted by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ on the Cross and provided through God's grace.
Bible	Muslims accept the Bible (especially the Pentateuch, Psalms, and Gospels) insofar as it agrees with the Qur'an.	The Bible is the inspired Word of God that is complete and not to be added to.
Qur'an (Koran)	A later revelation that supersedes and corrects errors in the Bible.	Not accepted as divine revelation.
Muhammad	The last in line of prophets and, therefore, the final authority in spiritual matters.	Not accepted as a prophet or legitimate theological source.
Angels	Divine messengers are created from light & are not worshipped. Satan is an angel.	Angels are defined in the Bible as heavenly servants of God who act as His messengers.
Last Days	There will be bodily resurrection and final judgment with final destination. All Muslims go to heaven, though some must be purged of their sins first. All infidels are destined for hell.	There will be bodily resurrection in the last days. Final judgment and eternal destination (heaven or hell) will be decided based on acceptance of Jesus as Savior and His removal of the sin which separates each person from God.

The Real Difference between Islam and Christian Faith: (Dallas M. Roark, Ph.D.)

Let's just look at the real issue of what is going to happen to you and me when we die. Many Muslims I have heard describe their activities of going to the Mosque on Friday, praying 5 times a day, keeping Ramadan, following the teachings of Mohammed in the Qur'an and the hadiths. ... You do good deeds in hope of getting closer to Allah, and hope for the best. The question, "are you going to paradise?" is answered "if Allah wills." but one never knows... "Inshallah" God will decide – whether it be hell or paradise.

The word "hell" appears scores of times in the Qur'an. Another fearsome word the Qur'an uses to describe hell is "fire." The unbelievers are clothed with fire of which there is no end. ... If Allah wills, believers may be taken to the gardens of delight where underground streams flow but no one knows what Allah will ultimately decide to do with them. Often Muslims are discouraged from asking questions about ideas in the Qur'an that bother them. One should not question Allah! In Islam Allah is viewed as a far off distant God, a being to be feared, who is always ready to punish wrong doers.

Do you know where you are going? There is no assurance whatever offered in Islam concerning where you will end up. I have heard Muslims say that they are doing good works, trying to live a life pleasing to Allah, but Allah offers no peace, no assurance that they will avoid hell. Their good deeds may never be enough. If you are a woman it is more hopeless. Let me share with you the great story of the Bible. It begins with the story of God's creation of the world and the first man and woman. This is an act of love. The world God created for us is a world that provides all that is needed for life. Unfortunately, man's sin has alienated him from God. How do we get back to God?

The Old Testament foretold a Messiah that would come who would bless mankind. Who is this blessing? Jesus the Christ! What does that mean for us? It is written, "... **God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world.** And he has given us (those who have asked Christ for forgiveness and received it and experienced his great love for us all) the work of sharing his message about peace. We were sent to speak for Christ, and God is begging you to listen to our message. We speak for Christ and sincerely ask you to make peace with God." (2 Cor.5:19-20 CEV)

It means that God loves us so much that he sent his Son to reveal what He is like. He sent his Son to bring forgiveness to us. He sent his Son to promise us life in His presence forever. The most awesome truth in the world is that while all people have sinned, God still loves us so much that he made it possible for us to be forgiven and to know Him. Are you bothered by a hollow feeling, an empty feeling, that Allah is distant and you can't find him? Do you long to be saturated with God's peace and love?

You see, Islam is a **religion**. Religion involves doing things, saying prayers, keeping rituals. However, Christian faith is not a religion but a **restored relationship. You can have a relationship with Jesus right now.** There is no waiting to see what will happen to you at death. You can claim the promise of eternal life **now** and know that you are going to heaven when you die. Jesus told a religious man, Nicodemus, that he must be born again. A spiritual rebirth must take place now. (Don't assume all Christians have this relationship. There are cultural Christians.)

You can have this relationship, this new birth, right now, by praying to Jesus to come into your life as your Lord and Savior. If you are searching for peace, forgiveness, and eternal life you can have it by receiving Jesus as your Lord right now. As I write this, my hope and prayer is that you will do that for your own sake, your own future. Remember the words of the Gospel:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." (John 3:16-18 ESV). <http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

Mohammed said, here is the way of obedience, you must follow it. In contrast, Jesus said, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6 ESV) Jesus declared, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10 ESV)

Do you think your works can compare with God who loves you so much that he has promised to forgive you if you come to Jesus. Which do you think is wise to chose: the way of works that ends in failure, or the way that leads to life. You have to chose between a **religion** in which you must earn God's approval or a **relationship** with God who forgives and promises everlasting life in His presence. We have nothing to offer God, but He has every thing to offer to us.

LIBERAL “CHRISTIAN” THEOLOGY vs. CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

	LIBERAL “CHRISTIAN” THEOLOGY	CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
BIBLE	Man’s reason stressed & final authority. The Bible is a good book, a nice guideline for Christian living – read as a novel, but, is NOT the inspired, inerrant, literal Word of God. The Bible stands beside, and often below, other books such as Tradition, Prayer Book, Missal, etc., in authority. In many liberal theology churches, only the New Testament is valid, even though it sits below Tradition in authority. The Old Testament is not even worth reading. The Bible has errors so man must determine which teachings are correct and which are not. Belief that the Bible is “inspired” (in that word’s original meaning) by God is only held by simpletons.	The Bible IS the Holy Spirit inspired, inerrant (God never says, “ <i>Oops!</i> ”), literal Word of God. The Bible is the final, sole authority for our Christian walk and for our Christian life. The Bible should be accepted literally with “sometimes” a metaphorical or symbolic meaning (then somewhere else in the Bible, you will find the interpretation, the intended meaning). The complete Bible, all sixty-six books are the Word of God and binding upon all mankind. Jesus always spoke of them. “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
CHRIST’S DEITY	Many liberals deny the deity of Christ (Jesus is God Almighty - that Christ is “God in the flesh”). They deny that Christ did God’s miracles, that Christ created the world, that Christ was 100% God and 100% man bridging the gap between God and man.	There are many pronouncements of Scripture against those who would deny the deity of Christ (2 Peter 2:1). Scripture also denounces those who would preach a different gospel from what was preached by the apostles (Galatians 1:8)—which is what they do in denying the necessity of Christ’s atoning death & preaching a social gospel instead.
BOOK OF GENESIS	Genesis’ early chapters are reduced to poetry or fantasy, having a message, but not to be taken literally (in spite of Jesus having spoken of them in literal terms).	Jesus spoke of the early Genesis chapters in literal terms. Matthew 19:4 says, “Don’t you know that in the beginning God made them male and female, male and female he made them” and many others.
FALLEN MANKIND	Mankind is not seen as totally depraved, and thus liberal theologians have an optimistic view of the future of mankind.	God made everything “good” in Genesis 1-2. In Chapter 3, we see the “fall of man” and “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Ro.3:23
VIRGIN BIRTH	The virgin birth of Christ is a mythological false teaching.	A literal Virgin Birth is an essential doctrine for the sinlessness of Christ (see Isaiah 7:14 and Luke 2).
RESURRECTION	Jesus did not rise again from the grave in bodily form.	There is a resurrection account in all four Gospels and the entire New Testament. (1 Corinthians 15)
JESUS (more than a Teacher and Miracle Worker).	Jesus was a good moral teacher, but His followers and their followers have taken liberties with the history of His life (no “supernatural” miracles). The Gospels were written many years later and merely ascribed to the early disciples in order to give greater weight to their teachings.	This contradicts the 2 Timothy 3:16-17 passage and the doctrine of the supernatural preservation of the Scriptures by God. The Gospels were written by people who had been eye-witnesses of Christ’s majesty, who had walked with Him, and who had seen Him after His resurrection. Many were martyred for their belief.
GOSPEL WRITERS	Most of the human authors of the Bible are not who they are traditionally believed to be. They believe Moses did not write the first five books of the Bible. The book of Daniel had two authors because there is no way that the detailed “prophecies” of the later chapters could have been known ahead of time; they must have been written after the fact. The same thinking is carried over to the New Testament books.	These ideas contradict not only the Scriptures but historical documents which verify the existence of all the people whom the liberals deny. Also, fulfilled prophecies (330 about Christ’s earthly life alone) verify that God’s life is eternal, having no beginning and no ending. Therefore, God knows the future. There are even more prophecies about Christ’s Second Coming than His First Coming yet to be fulfilled.
MAN’S DEPRAVITY	The most important thing for man to do is to “love” his neighbor. What is the loving	This denies the doctrine of total depravity, which states that man is capable of doing nothing good

	thing to do in any situation is not what the Bible says is good but what the liberal theologians decide is good.	and loving (Jeremiah 17:9) until He has been redeemed by Christ and given a new nature (2 Corinthians 5:17). Jesus said, "Only God is good."
THE WAY TO GOD	There are many ways to God. They even accept the Bahia Faith which says Christ isn't coming back but their prophet is.	There is only one Way to God, Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Read the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus asked if there was "another way". What father wouldn't show their son another way if there was?
GOD'S POWER	Denies God's power in that is says that there is some inner goodness in man that does not require a rebirth by the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ. Scripture speaks against those who would cry "peace, peace" when there is no peace (Jeremiah 6:14)—which liberal theologians do by saying that man can attain peace with God apart from Christ's sacrifice on the cross and that man need not worry about a future judgment before God described in the whole Bible.	The Word of God speaks of a time when men will have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). And it speaks against those who would serve idols instead of the one true God (1 Chronicles 16:26)—which liberal Christianity does in that it creates a false god according to its own liking rather than worshipping God as He is throughout the Bible.
LIVE/LET LIVE or PREACH SALVATION	Folks are taught that they should not be judgmental, live and let live.	Taught that if a brother sins, go and reprove him -- with love. If he will not listen, go again with two or three other mature believers. If he will not listen, take him before the congregation. Then, if he will not listen, exclude him from the fellowship with sincere prayer that this will bring him to his spiritual senses (Matthew 18:15-17).
HELL	Hell is not real. Man is not lost in sin and is not doomed to some future judgment without a relationship with Christ through faith. Man can help himself; no sacrificial death by Christ is necessary since a loving God would not send people to such a place as hell and since man is not born in sin.	This contradicts Jesus Himself, who declared Himself to be the Way to God, through His atoning death (John 14:6). Even Mother Teresa who worked so hard for God, said at the end of her life, "I hope I did enough to get into heaven." What a burden that puts on everyone. But no burden if we ride into heaven on Christ's death and resurrection.
DIVORCE	Acceptable. We now have "massive" divorce since the laws on divorce changed.	One marriage sanctified under God as an example to the world of Christ and His church. Acceptable in cases of adultery but forgiveness/reconciliation still recommended through counsel and healing.
MARRIAGE (God's plan)	Some liberal churches embrace homosexuality (transgender, etc.) as an alternative lifestyle.	We are come under the Christ's Word, the Bible, and His authority. Prayer, healing, commitment to Christ, & obedience is the answer.
SCIENCE	Reconcile Christianity with secular science & modern thinking. Treat science as all-knowing & Bible as fable-laden and false.	True Science proves Bible (young earth, massive flood, life comes from God's life, Christ's witness as to having created everything being there to do it)
SOCIAL GOSPEL	Social gospel is emphasized, while the inability of fallen man to fulfill it is denied. "Salvation through Christ" is no longer the issue; the main thing is how man treats his fellow man – "love" becoming the defining issue. Teaching and sharing the Gospel of Salvation is overshadowed -- work hard at doing good deeds and that will get you into heaven. What is the "assurance" that "good works" will get people to heaven? How much work is enough?	Evangelism (sharing the Gospel of Salvation with the unsaved) goes hand in hand with missions work. Missions work is going to the unsaved, helping them learn to feed themselves and their families -- and, at the same time, feeding them the Word of God. Yes, it is much easier to tell a person with a full stomach about Jesus, than a man whose stomach is growling from hunger. But, the two must never be separated: feeding the stomach and feeding the soul. Not to just comfort people into hell but give assurance of salvation thru Jesus!!

See: www.altogetherlovely.org FREE TEACHINGS: CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE / DOES THIS PROVE JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH? / WHO DO YOU SAY I AM / THE GOSPEL / ASSURANCE OF SALVATION / etc.

Watchtower (Jehovah's Witnesses) vs Christianity

Some Christians don't understand why Jehovah Witnesses are a "cult" if they believe in Jesus. Here is a short (not exhaustive) list of some of the major differences between the Jehovah's Witnesses and Christianity

- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that there is no Holy Trinity.
- Christianity teaches that there is the Holy Trinity, i.e., the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the Holy Spirit is only "a force" and not a real person.
- Christianity teaches that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, i.e., the third Person of the Trinity.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ is not God, and that he is in fact only a creation of God.
- Christianity teaches that Jesus is God, and He is in fact the Creator of all things.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ was Michael the archangel who became a man.
- Christianity teaches that Jesus is almighty God who created Michael the archangel.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ was only a perfect man.
- Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ was God in flesh.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead in his physical body.
- Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ did rise from the dead in his physical (though glorified) body.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that they are the only true church, all others are going to hell.
- Christianity teaches that any church who believes in proper Christian theology is a true church.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that only their church members will be saved.
- Christianity teaches that any person who believes in Jesus Christ as his/her savior will be saved.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that good works are necessary for salvation.
- Christianity teaches that faith in Jesus Christ sacrifice alone is necessary for salvation.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the soul ceases to exist after death.
- Christianity teaches that the soul goes on in the afterlife to either be with God in heaven or to hell (if the person has never accepted Jesus Christ as his savior).
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that only 144,000 Jehovah's Witness will actually go to heaven.
- Christianity teaches that any person who believes in Jesus Christ as his/her savior will go to heaven.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that medical blood transfusions are a sin.
- Christianity teaches no such thing.
- Also, Jehovah's Witnesses refuse to vote, salute the flag, sing the "Star Spangled Banner," or celebrate Christmas or birthdays, and they are not allowed to serve in the armed forces.

All Christians must remember, however, that while they need to know these significant differences so as to be forewarned, and to warn others, our goal is also to reach members of the cults with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Evangelism, not conquest, should be our aim.

<http://www.bible.ca/jw-questions.htm>

<http://www.historicjesus.com/1/index.html>

<http://www.wordsofhope.org/manifest.htm>

<http://chbclubbock.org/jehovaswitness/index.html>

<http://christiananswers.net/evangelism/beliefs/jehovahswitness.html>

<http://www.faithfacts.org/world-religions-and-theology/jehovahs-witness>

Doctrine/Belief	JW Support	Christian Response
Only the Watchtower Society can interpret the Bible. Individuals cannot.	"...the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible...the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind" (<i>Watchtower</i> , October 1, 1997, p. 587).	Ephesians 1:17, 18, states that the Spirit will provide wisdom and illumination to the revelation of God in the Bible. According to the belief espoused by JW's, all people that lived until the JW's were Founded by Charles Russell must have been doomed to failure, not being able interpret the Bible.
The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (the JW Bible version) is the best translation of the Bible, and should be used over any other version.	"Outstanding among Bibles is the New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures...Accuracy, uniformity, clarity, and up-to-date language mark this excellent work. Bible study aids without equal make this an indispensable help to sincere searching students of God's Word" (<i>What Has Religion Done For Mankind</i> , 1951, p. 351.)	The JW Bible actually is plagued with errors. Greek scholar Bruce Metzger said that "the Jehovah's Witnesses have incorporated in their translation of the New Testament several quite erroneous renderings of the Greek." ("Jehovah's Witnesses and Jesus Christ," <i>Theology Today</i> , April, 1953).
The Trinity does not exist, and is an evil doctrine that teaches the existence of 3 gods.	"Never was there a more deceptive doctrine advanced than that of the trinity" (<i>Reconciliation</i> , 1928) "...sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish-looking, three-headed God" (<i>Let God Be True</i> , 1946) "Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine" (Ibid.)	Many religions have difficulty with an infinite God, and try to put Him in a box - to define Him in terms they can understand. While the word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible as a description of God, the scriptures definitely indicate one God with a triune nature - existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Jesus Christ was Michael the Archangel before becoming a man.	"...the Son of God was known as Michael before he came to earth" (<i>Reasoning from the Scriptures</i> , p. 218).	There is no basis for this anywhere in the Bible.
After Jesus died, he was resurrected with His original identity as Michael the Archangel.	"Read carefully the following Bible account: 'War broke out in heaven: Michael [who is the resurrected Jesus Christ] and his angels battled with the dragon'" (<i>You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth</i> , 1982, p. 21).	Michael, on his own, could not rebuke Satan (Jude 1:9), yet in Mark 9:25 Jesus Himself rebukes Satan. Hebrews 2:5 says an angel can't rule the world, but Luke 1:32-33 and Revelation 19:16 show Jesus Christ to be the one who will reign. Therefore, Jesus and Michael can't be one and the same.
Jesus is "a god", and lesser than Jehovah God.	In the JW version of the Bible, John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was a god." [emphasis added] "...that is the Word was a powerful godlike one. Clearly, Jesus is not Almighty God." (Ibid., p. 40).	The JW Bible did not provide an accurate or legitimate translation of this verse.
Salvation must be earned through works	"To get one's name written in that book of life will depend on one's works, whether they are in fulfillment of God's will and approved by his Judge and King." (<i>Watchtower</i> , August 15, 1972).	"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works , so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV) (Emphasis added).
We will be gods when we join Christ in heaven.	"...we are begotten of a divine nature...Jehovah is thus our father...we are divine beings - hence all such are Gods...Now we appear like men, and all die naturally as men, but in the resurrection we will rise in our true character as Gods" (<i>Watchtower</i> , December 1881, 1919 repr.).	This obviously flies in the face of the JW claim that they are monotheistic. Isaiah 43:10 and 1 Timothy 2:5 are but two of many verses that confirm there is only One God. To claim we will become gods is blasphemy.

Christian Doctrine vs Mormon Doctrine

"Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it and see if it will stand the test," (Brigham Young, May 18, 1873, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 16, p. 46.)

What does Mormonism Teach? Well, here are some of the basics, plain and simple.

God came from another planet. God is a man with a body of flesh and bones. There is a mother goddess. God and his goddess wife are married. You can become gods.

Topic	Christian	Mormon
GOD	There is only one God (Isaiah 43:11; 44:6,8; 45:5).	"And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light (Book of Abraham 4:3).
	God has always been God (Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 57:15).	"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see," (<i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i> , p. 345).
	God is a spirit without flesh and bones (John 4:24; Luke 24:39).	"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's," (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22; Compare with Alma 18:26-27; 22:9-10). "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 38).
TRINITY	The Trinity is the doctrine that there is only one God in all the universe and that He exists in three eternal, simultaneous persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.	The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 35).
JESUS	Jesus was born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:23).	"The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood - was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers," (<i>Journal of Discourses</i> , vol. 8, p. 115). "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers" (<i>Mormon Doctrine</i> , by Bruce McConkie, p. 547).
JESUS	Jesus is the eternal Son. He is second person of the Trinity. He has two natures. He is God in flesh and man (John 1:1, 14; Col. 2:9) and the creator of all things (Col. 1:15-17).	Jesus is the literal spirit-brother of Lucifer, a creation (<i>Gospel Through the Ages</i> , p. 15).
THE HOLY SPIRIT	The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is not a force. He is a person. (Acts 5:3-4; 13:2)	Mormonism distinguishes between the Holy Spirit (God's presence via an essence) and the holy ghost (the third god in the Mormon doctrine of the trinity). "He [the holy ghost] is a being endowed with the attributes and powers of Deity, and not a mere force, or

		essence," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 144).
SALVATION	Salvation is the forgiveness of sin and deliverance of the sinner from damnation. It is a free gift received by God's grace (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23) and cannot be earned (Rom. 11:6).	Salvation has a double meaning in Mormonism: universal resurrection and . . . "The first effect [of the atonement] is to secure to all mankind alike, exemption from the penalty of the fall, thus providing a plan of <i>General Salvation</i> . The second effect is to open a way for <i>Individual Salvation</i> whereby mankind may secure remission of personal sins," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 78-79).
	Salvation (forgiveness of sins) is not by works (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 4:5; Gal. 2:21).	"As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements -- 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel,'" (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , p. 79).
BIBLE	The inspired inerrant word of God (2 Tim. 3:16). It is authoritative in all subjects it addresses.	"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. . ." (8th Article of Faith of the Mormon Church).
BIBLE	God promised to preserve His word and to suggest that the Bible was mistranslated and corrupted would be to call God a liar. If God were to give additional revelations they would be consistent with any prior revelations thus eliminating Mormon writings, since they stand in direct opposition to the divine revelation that has already been given in the Bible.	The Church has 4 Standard Works that are authoritative: The Bible (in so far as it is translated correctly), the Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. Speeches and writings of the current president of the church are also authoritative. The Bible is far below the other standard Works because it is full of errors (wherever it disagrees with Mormon doctrine).

People ask, "Why are you attacking Mormonism? We never malign your faith, so why attack ours?" The fact is, proving it to be a false doctrine is not an attack but a defense of the Christian faith. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism made the first attack by claiming that all Christian denominations are an abomination in God's sight. If a Latter Day Saint should ask you this question, you need only look as far as their own scriptures and to the words of their leaders for an answer:

- Journal of Discourses 5:73--"*When the light came to me I saw that all the so-called Christian world was groveling in darkness.*"
- Journal of Discourses 8:99--"*With a regard to true theology, a more ignorant people never lived than the present so-called Christian world.*"
- Journal of Discourses 6:25--"*What! Are Christians ignorant? Yes, as ignorant of the things of God as the brute beast.*"
- Orson Pratt (Mormon Apostle)--"*..all other churches are entirely destitute of all authority from God; and any person who receives baptism of the Lord's supper from their hands highly offend God, for he looks upon them as the most corrupt of all people*" (The Seer, pg 255)
- Heber C. Kimball (First Counselor to Brigham Young)--"*Christians - those poor, miserable priests Brother Brigham was speaking about - some of them are the biggest whoremasters there are on the earth...*" (Journal of Discourses 5:39)

<http://www.goodnewsforlds.com/video.html> (great information on Mormonism)

NEW AGE MOVEMENT vs CHRISTIANITY

The New Age Movement (NAM) is hard to define as a singular religion. It is just what it is – a movement. It is essentially a collection of eastern-influenced metaphysical ideologies, a hodge-podge of theologies and philosophies that are bound together by “universal tolerance” and moral relativism. The NAM is the natural progression of humanism. It teaches that humans have evolved biologically, and must now evolve spiritually. Beyond that, it is difficult to define, as there is no hierarchy, doctrine, creed, or membership. You will be hard-pressed to find the “First New Age Church” on any street corner in your town.

Man is the central figure in the NAM. He is viewed as divine, and progressing toward a kind of godhood, or “Christ-Consciousness”. Many NAM divisions are pantheistic – they believe God is in everything, and everything together makes up God. Therefore, as a part of nature, man is part of God. Many New Age practices are designed to push man through the spiritual evolution to godhood. Astral projection (training your soul to have out-of-body experiences), contacting spirit guides, and using crystals to purify your body and mind’s energy systems are among these practices. Many New Agers believe in reincarnation and in Karma.

Some NAM terms you may hear are: holistic, synergistic, unity, oneness, harmony, transformation, personal growth, human potential, awakening, networking, energy, cleansing, and consciousness. A disproportionate amount of NAM books and texts contain the word “self”. That is because, as we said earlier, man is the central figure. One must improve one’s “self” to become one with nature and god. You may also hear New Age followers using Christian terms. This is because they view Jesus as a man who excelled at spiritual evolution and progression, and was tuned into his “Christ Consciousness.” Do not be fooled, though. The Christian terms you will hear will have a different meaning to a New Ager than they will for you.

NEW AGE MOVEMENT	CHRISTIANITY
God is an impersonal force.	God is personal. He is our Heavenly Father who loves us.
God is all and all is God. He is part of creation, as are all of us.	God is the Almighty Creator of the universe, and all within it. Man is finite, and one of God’s creations.
There is no sin, only misunderstanding of truth.	Rebellion from God is sin. All have sinned, and all must be saved.
Man saves himself.	Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins. Only through faith in Him may man be saved.
Heaven and Hell do not exist. They are states of mind.	There is a literal Heaven, and a literal Hell.
Jesus is a man who exemplified “Christ Consciousness, and the divinity that is man.	Jesus is the Son of God, and is part of the triune nature of God.

Perhaps one of the biggest draws of the NAM is the release it provides from personal accountability and responsibility. Moral Relativism claims that there is no such thing as right or wrong. Each PERSON, in their effort to achieve oneness, must travel their own path and make their own decisions. And those decisions are never wrong, provided they’re not wrong in that person’s own mind.

As Christians, we recognize the fallacy of that thinking. We know that man is finite and imperfect. In fact, man has a sinful nature. Only through faith in an eternal and omnipotent God may we be saved from our sin. The NAM sees the Christian view of salvation through Christ alone as being divisive and exclusionary. What they don't see, is that the gift of salvation is free to EVERYONE. The stipulation is that each person must accept that. If you believe in the NAM, please realize that the following are irrefutable truths:

- There is such a thing as right and wrong.
- There is a Heaven, and there is a Hell.
- There is only one God, who is eternal in nature, and who created the universe and everything in it.
- Man is finite, imperfect, and sinful.
- God is not impersonal. He loves you more than you can imagine. He loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to take on a mortal body, in order to be the final sacrifice for your sins.
- God is just. He has provided this path for your salvation, but you MUST accept it.
- God is as loving as He is just. He is not willing that ANY should perish.
- Eternal life in Paradise can be yours, provided you confess your sins, and accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

If you have not yet accepted this gift, and wish to, say the following prayer. This prayer is not a magical incantation, and is just an example. If you wish to say it in your own words, feel free.

God, I know now that I am a sinner. I recognize my sinful nature, and the fact that I have sinned against You. I am sorry. I know that you have provided for my salvation, and I want to claim that now. I turn my back on my sinful nature, and I give myself to you. Come into my life, Lord. Cleanse me of my sins. Make me whole. Thank you for this precious gift. Lord, I dedicate my life to you. I pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Bible says that if you confess your sins, God is faithful and just to forgive you. If you prayed the prayer above, you have accepted the gift of salvation. You are a child of God. We welcome you to the family. It is important now to learn as much as possible. All the information you will ever need is in God's Word – the Bible. We encourage you to go buy one as soon as possible. If you cannot afford a Bible, write to us, and we will make sure that you get one. It's also important to fellowship with other believers. If you want to find a good Christian church in your area, but need some help, write to us, and we will do our best to get you in touch with one. Oh, and one other thing. This is something we love! Do you want to talk with God? You can! Just pray! You don't have to do so in a special place, or have any special words. Just talk to Him. If you pray to God in the name of Jesus, He will hear you. The joy in store for you will knock your socks off!! Oh, we're so excited for you!

<http://www.contenderministries.org/romanroad.php>

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS vs CHRISTIANITY

WRITINGS Adventism

The Bible, including Adventist paraphrase *The Clear Word*. Over 600 published titles with divine revelations and counsel by prophetess Ellen G. White (1827–1915), including *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*.

Christianity

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments

GOD Adventism

God is comprised of a unity of three co-eternal Persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who are one in motive and purpose but not substance. God the Father is generally understood to possess a physical body. Both trinitarianism and Arian anti-trinitarianism are believed among active Seventh-day Adventists.

Christianity

The triune God: one God in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is Spirit.

JESUS Adventism

Ellen G. White says God the Father exalted Jesus to be His Son, thus provoking Lucifer's jealousy and a war in heaven. Jesus is our example to prove we can live sinlessly. His sacrifice on the cross did not complete the atonement; since 1844 He has been applying His blood in heaven in an ongoing "investigative judgment" after which He will return. Also identified as Michael the Archangel; most Adventist founders denied His deity.

Christianity

The second Person of the Trinity. As God the Son, He has always existed and was never created. He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit and is fully God and man. He died on a cross as full sacrifice and atonement for our sin and rose from death on the third day. He is our Substitute in taking the guilt, punishment, and death for our sin.

HOLY SPIRIT Adventism

Originally thought to be a force or power from God, today the Holy Spirit is understood to be the third Person of the Godhead.

Christianity

The third Person of the Trinity.

SALVATION Adventism

Salvation by grace through faith, but maintained by commandment-keeping and repentance. Seventh-day (Saturday) Sabbath observance is the sign of the seal of God; Sunday worship is the mark of the beast.

Christianity

Salvation is by God's grace, not by an individual's good works. It must be received by faith. Salvation is maintained by God's grace and by His life which He grants when believers are born again by His Spirit.

DEATH Adventism

Like the incarnate Christ, humans have no immaterial spirit, so at death the body goes into the ground and the breath goes to God. Nothing remains except in God's memory. At judgment the lake of fire annihilates the wicked. The resurrection is essentially a re-creation of the person out of God's memory.

Christianity

The immaterial spirit of believers goes to be with Jesus. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected. Those who are saved will live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost will suffer the torment of eternal separation from God (hell). Jesus' resurrection is the promise that believers will receive glorified, resurrection bodies.

SCAPEGOAT Adventism

Satan, who will carry the sins of the saved out of heaven, thus cleansing the sanctuary. He will be punished for being the party responsible for causing the sins of those who are saved.

Christianity:

The Lord Jesus

JUDGMENT Adventism: The “investigative judgment” doctrine is unique to Adventism. Also called the “pre-Advent judgment” (or “sanctuary doctrine”), it is patterned after the details of the Israelite Day of Atonement described in Leviticus. It began in October 1844 when Jesus moved from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary, where he is investigating the records of professing believers. All sins which have been specifically confessed are finally pardoned; all which have been forgotten or otherwise unconfessed are placed back on the persons who committed them. Jesus’ blood carries these sins of the saved into the Most Holy Place where they are held until the end of the investigative judgment. All confessed sins will be removed from heaven when Jesus completes His investigation and places them on Satan the scapegoat.

The years between 1844 and the end of the judgment, culminating in the Time of Trouble, are the “anti-typical Day of Atonement” in which we are currently living. Salvation is not determined until the end of the judgment.

Christianity

Those who believe in Jesus’ death for their sin and in His resurrection from death do not come into judgment but pass from death to life (John 5:24). Those who believe in Jesus are not judged, because He took God’s judgment for sin in their place. Those who do not believe are judged already (John 3:18).

ESCHATOLOGY (ends times) Adventism

The Time of Trouble will occur at the end of the investigative judgment. God’s Spirit will be withdrawn from the earth, and God’s people will have to have attained perfection so they can withstand the Time of Trouble without a Mediator or Intercessor. Those who worship on Sunday will hunt and kill Sabbath-keepers, God’s true believers. The millennium will be spent in heaven; Satan will be “bound” by being restricted to an unpopulated earth. God will spend the millennium explaining His justice so all human questions will be answered. Those who are saved vindicate the character of God before sinless, created beings who live throughout the universe and observe the cosmic drama unfolding.

Christianity

While specific details about the timing of the second coming and the rapture of believers varies, Christianity is united in believing that the issue of faith in Jesus will be the final test between those who are saved and those who are not. God is sovereign, and He owes no creation explanations for His justice and mercy. Jesus lives forever as the intercessor for believers; they never have to live without Him on the basis of their own perfection. Humans never vindicate God’s character to the universe; rather, the cross demonstrated God’s justice for all eternity (Romans 3:26).

OTHER BELIEFS Adventism: The Adventist Church is God’s one, special, end-time remnant church. Old Testament clean/unclean meat laws observed. Adventist “health message” includes abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine and advocates veganism. Traditionalist Adventists believe wearing jewelry is sinful. Massive missionary programs, which target nonbelievers as well as professing evangelicals, include “Revelation seminars,” health outreach. Ellen G. White found to have committed extensive plagiarism throughout her prophetic writings.

Christianity: Other beliefs: There is only one church, and it is composed of all who have been born of the Spirit from the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) onward. Diet and health do not play a role in holiness or salvation. Jesus is God’s final word to mankind (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Which prophet: Ellen G. White or JESUS CHRIST? SDA’s will show you how the NT. Church went to the synagogue on SATURDAY. Of course, they did – they went there to tell Jews who needed Jesus about Jesus. Then they worshiped on the LORD’S DAY – Sunday!!! They put people under Moses’s Law instead of Christ’s Law (see: Gal.6:2, Rom.8:1-2). The LAW came through Moses – Grace & Truth came through Jesus Christ. We live under Christ’s Law of LOVE, FREEDOM, AND GRACE. It is a higher law. Moses’ law made us aware of our sin and could not be followed. Christ’s LAW is grace and is a higher and more difficult law that cannot be kept but because we have Christ’s Holy Spirit we can be empowered as His lives His life through us. Finally, early Christians would greet each other with, “The Lord is Risen.” Responded to by others, “He is Risen indeed.” The Resurrection was the basis of NT Christians – it provided Hope, Joy, Celebration, etc. Moses’ Law brought sin and death (3,000 died when given) and Christ’s law brings life (3,000 in Acts were saved). contenderministries.org/romanroad.php

ECUMENISM: IS IT BIBLICAL?

Should a Christian be involved in the ecumenical movement?"

The important question is this: Are ecumenical ventures right and biblical? Should we be involved with other “Christians” in joint ventures, either locally, nationally or internationally? The answer to this question is not black and white. As is almost always the case, one must weigh out the answer in each situation specifically. However, there are a couple of biblical guidelines which will help us make God-honoring decisions regarding ecumenism.

First of all, Are those we are joining with truly Christians in the biblical sense of the word? Many people and organizations in America and the world “name the Name of Jesus Christ” and even state He is Lord and Savior and yet clearly reject what the Bible says about Him. Obvious examples of this are Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses. They will say they are followers of Jesus Christ and are Christian and yet deny with vehemence what the Bible declares concerning Christ’s nature and work. A not-so-obvious example comes in the form of liberal Christianity. Liberal Christianity is found in almost every denomination in the United States and, although it may seem very Christian, usually liberal Christians reject several essential biblical truths such as the inspiration and authority of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16), Jesus as the only Savior of the entire world (John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5), and salvation as God’s free gift to those who believe apart from good works (Romans 3:24, 28; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9).

As seen with the publication of Evangelicals and Catholics Together, there is a major emphasis in our day on ecumenical unity among Evangelicals and Roman Catholics. Those who promote such unity state that both are Christian and both are viable, God-honoring systems of faith. But clearly the substantial differences between the two groups render ECT a ridiculous document. Biblical Christianity and Roman Catholicism are two different religions that practice and believe different things about how one is saved, the authority of the Bible, the priesthood of believers, the nature of man, the work of Christ on the cross, etc. The list of irreconcilable differences between what the Bible says and what the Roman Catholic Church says makes any joint mission between the two absolutely impossible. Those who deny this are not being true to what they say they believe, no matter which side they are on. Any Catholic who is serious about his faith will deny what a serious evangelical Christian believes and vice-versa.

The difficulty with ecumenism is that often the above listed groups are passionately like-minded with biblical Christians regarding a given issue. Biblical Christians are usually marked by a strong pro-life belief, a strong traditional view of the family, a strong emphasis on compassion for the homeless and sick, and a strong desire to see justice in the world. The above groups are often marked by the same desires. Thus, the temptation to “pool resources” in pursuit of a common cause is sometimes great. This leads to the next guideline.

Second, what is the ultimate goal of this ecumenical venture? The Scriptures give clear guidance as to how Bible-believing Christians are to live their lives. Colossians 3:17 states our purpose this way, “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Regarding our interactions with the lost, unbelieving world, Jesus states this in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Some familiar verses are Matthew 28:18-20, also known as the Great Commission, “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” In summary, all that we do is to bring glory and honor to God. Regarding the lost of this world, Christians bring glory to God when God uses the believer to further His kingdom through evangelism and discipleship. This is to be the motivation of the Bible-believing

Christian's interaction with the world.

Regarding ecumenical ventures, we need to ask ourselves whether or not these goals are being pursued. Often, in our day, the political and/or social desires of the participants are the driving motivators behind an ecumenical venture. A prime example of this is the current drive to pass a constitutional amendment declaring that the only marriage that will be recognized in the United States is the traditional, man/woman union. If our churches ecumenically join together in pursuit of this goal (passing out fliers, hosting a rally, etc), how are we striving for the above stated biblical purposes? Are we not simply striving for political and social achievement? How will the practicing, unbelieving homosexual view our Savior and Lord if all he sees in us is political activism and no compassion and no outreach? The ultimate goal of our actions should be the salvation of lost sinners, which we once were (Ephesians 2:1-3). The Bible tells us that the angels of heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:10). There is no passage that declares that the angels rejoice when a law is passed. This applies to homosexuality, abortion, drug-abuse, etc. God is glorified when we demonstrate Christlikeness to the lost. As we contemplate ecumenical ventures within our society, we need to make sure the venture is one in which God's kingdom is expanded through pursuing the lost with the gospel, be they practicing immorality, abortion-rights activists, homeless, drug-abusers, criminals, etc.

In conclusion, should we be involved in ecumenical cooperation with other Christians and churches? If the above conditions are met in a God-honoring way, we may freely and joyfully join with other believers in pursuit of God's kingdom. The ultimate goal is God's glory and the evangelism and discipleship of the lost. The ecumenical venture must be structured in this way. Thus, those we join with must believe the biblical definition of the gospel and they must also be about seeking the same goal of God's glory and the salvation of the lost.

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/ecumenism-ecumenical.html#ixzz2hJirAmPn>