

***This File Contains The Following Articles:***

Christianity is a Credible Faith

What are some of the differences between  
Christianity and the Eastern religions?

What Distinguishes Christianity From Other Religions?

Comparing Christianity to Other Religions

# Christianity is a Credible Faith

True Christianity, as set forth in the Bible, is **a credible faith and not one based on emotions, superstitions, or groundless belief**. Christianity is founded on truth that can be tested and is for the thinking person. Followers of other religions can quote their texts and give glowing testimonies of how their religions make them feel, but their beliefs are based on feelings rather than historical facts. It is quite possible to be devoted and sincere about your religious belief; but wholeheartedly believing a lie does not make it true. Although some beliefs can bring comfort, will they ultimately help or harm us if they are false?

**Christianity alone is based on verifiable historical truth.** The Bible states in Romans 1:20 that no one has any excuse for disbelief in the one true God because God clearly makes Himself known to everyone through what He has made (His creation).

God also makes Himself known through His Word, the Bible. He challenges us to examine and test it. Each person is responsible to investigate the Bible's claim of authenticity. Our eternal destiny depends upon it.<sup>1</sup>

... Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

This article is from the Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> entry on the subject of "Evidence From Creation Foundation" taken from the book, *A Closer Look At The Evidence*, by Richard & Tina Kleiss.<sup>2</sup> Although this amazing book contains evidence, researched from over 70 expert sources, for the **existence of a Creator**, for the **reliability of the Holy Bible**, and for the **trustworthiness of Christianity**, the information in this article was condensed from the book, *Many Infallible Proofs*, by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D., LL.D., Litt.D..

1. *Many Infallible Proofs*, Henry M. Morris, Ph.D., LL.D., Litt.D., Creation - Life Pub., Inc. Master Book Division, El Cajon, CA, 1974. p. 7.

2. *A Closer Look At The Evidence*, Richard L. & Christina (Tina) E. Kleiss, Search for the Truth Pub., Midland, MI.

## What are some of the differences between Christianity and the Eastern religions?

We are living in a day of increased technology and communication, and by means of such advanced media as television we can witness events as they occur around the globe. This has led to more familiarity with the thought and religious beliefs of other people.

East has met West, and we are seeing that there are vast differences between Christianity and the religions of the East.

The God of Eastern thought is impersonal, while the God of the Bible is personal. In some eastern religions, God is everything and everything is God, while the Bible teaches that God is independent from His creation.

One of the basic concepts of Eastern thought is the concept of material illusion (*maya* in Hindu); the material world is an illusion, and sin is nothing but ignorance about the fact of illusion.

The Scriptures teach that the world has objective reality, and sin, far from being mere ignorance about the illusion of the world, is willful rebellion against the very real, infinite God.

The law of karma is an intricate belief in many of the Eastern religions. Good karma or good works is the way a person will be delivered from the cycle of rebirth, while bad karma will result in a person being reborn in a lower form than the previous life. Salvation is based on works.

The Scriptures teach that human deeds are not even considered in the matters of eternal salvation. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5, KJV). Works do have a very vital place, but they come within the life that has already received the salvation God gives, and are to be the grateful and beautiful expression that salvation for that person is real (Ephesians 2:10).

As for the idea of the transmigration of souls or continuous rebirths until one reaches nirvana or eternal bliss, the Bible teaches no such gospel of the second chance. The teaching of the Scriptures

is that each person is unique, not part of everything, and after that unique person dies, he will be accountable to God in judgement (Hebrews 9:27).

The Christian world view is totally different from that in the Eastern religions. History has no purpose or meaning to the Eastern mind; it is a never-ending struggle. The Bible portrays a supernatural God, who is working toward the ultimate goal of setting up His eternal kingdom.

Another avenue which has served to introduce the Western world to Eastern thought is the drug culture. Along with the emphasis on drugs on the university campuses in the 1960s came an emphasis on Eastern religion, which matched perfectly for those looking for a way out. This increased interest in the academic community brought about new literature with Eastern thought forms which then began to permeate our culture. Authors such as Hesse, Casteneda, and Pirsig (*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*) became popular. Even groups such as Transcendental Meditation (TM) gained respectability and sprang up everywhere.

There are many other differences between the Eastern religious thought and Christianity; there are few similarities, even of a superficial nature. The above differences are sufficient to indicate the lack of any correspondence between Christianity and Eastern religions on any major, fundamental tenet of belief.

This article is from p.108 of *Answers To Tough Questions skeptics ask about the Christian faith*, by Josh McDowell and Don Stewart.

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SOURCES

- Andersen, J. N. D. *Christianity and Comparative Religions*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1971.
- McDowell, Josh and Don Stewart. *Understanding Non-Christian Religions*. San Bernardino, Calif.: Here's Life Pubs., 1982.
- Neill, Stephen. *Christian Faith and Other Faiths*. New York: Oxford, 1970.

## What Distinguishes Christianity From Other Religions?

Christianity is unique among the religions of the world for several reasons.

First, unlike other religions, Christianity is rooted in history and evidence. Jesus of Nazareth was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of Caesar Augustus and was put to death by Pontius Pilate, a first century Roman governor. The testimony of his life, death, and resurrection is validated both by credible eyewitness testimony and by credible extra-biblical evidence as well. No other religion can legitimately claim this kind of support from history and evidence.

Furthermore, of all the influential religious leaders of the world (Buddha, Moses, Zoroaster, Krishna, Lao Tzu, Muhammad, Baha'u'llah), only Jesus claimed to be God in human flesh (Mark 14:62). And this was not an empty boast. For through the historically verifiable fact of resurrection, Christ vindicated His claim to deity (Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). Other religions, such as Buddhism and Islam, claim miracles in support of their faith; however, unlike

Christianity, such miracles lack historical validation.

Finally, Christianity is unique in that it is a coherent belief structure. Some Christian doctrines may transcend comprehension, however, unlike the claims of other religions, they are never irrational or contradictory. Christianity is also unique in that it cogently accounts for the vast array of phenomena we encounter in everyday life: the human mind, laws of science, laws of logic, ethical norms, justice, love, meaning of life, the problem of evil and suffering, and truth. In other words, Christianity corresponds with the reality of our present condition.

This article is from p.154 of *The Bible Answer Book*, by Hank Hanegraaff - The Bible Answer Man (Nashville, Tennessee: J. Countryman division of the Thomas Nelson Book Group).

For further study, see James W. Sire, *The Universe Next Door*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1997); and Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998).

# Comparing Christianity to Other Religions

Christianity is unique over all other religions because it is based on historical *facts* and *acts*. Other religions are primarily centered on the ethical and religious *opinions* of their founders. Christianity is based on the character of Jesus Christ and what He did. Its truth and validity rely on real events of past such as: creation, the fall, crucifixion of Christ, and His resurrection from death to life. The historical records of these events can be objectively investigated.

**Christianity is the only religion which offers the possibility of physically investigating its factual nature** because it makes specific claims about the world around us. It also addresses where we came from. If these claims are false, then all other biblical claims are also suspect. But if these claims are scientifically valid, there is every reason to believe the Bible's claims (such as what happens after death or what God requires of us in order to spend eternity in His presence).<sup>1</sup>

Only the Bible starts with the special creation of all things by an eternal, all powerful, personal God. **The Bible has a unique and reasonable solution to the origin problem** - "In the beginning, God created ...". Other religious books reveal ignorance on this point. They all propose ideas for the evolution of the universe from existing matter but do not explain how the matter originated.

For example, the *Babylonians* stated in their "Enuma Elish", that the universe began with a primeval chaotic mixture of three kinds of water. The *Greek myths* proposed an initial state of matter randomly coming together. *Roman writers*, like Lucretius, assumed that there was a universal blind interplay of atoms. The *Orphic myths* supposed the universe developed out of a primeval world-egg. Similarly, *the modern theory of evolution* begins with eternal matter in one form or another. No other book (including modern evolutionary "science" books) is able to go beyond the present order of things to a real first cause.

Only the Bible explains the origin of matter by the existence of God. He is outside of matter, time, and space. He brought matter into existence and can take matter out of existence.<sup>2</sup>

The Bible is unique among all the religious writings of the ancient world in the following ways:

- 1. It is the only book that gives an account of the creation of all things from nothing.**
- 2. It is the only book of ancient history that reveals a meaning and purpose behind events or the past.**
- 3. It is the only book that gives a continuous historical record from the first man to the present era.**
- 4. It is the only religious book which sets the moral standard required by man at an impossible level and explains why man, by his efforts, can never achieve this standard.**

**5. It is the only book containing detailed prophecies of future events that have come true with 100% accuracy.**

The very words of the Bible are God-breathed. The Old Testament alone makes approximately 2,600 claims that it is God's Word. No other religious work claims this.<sup>3</sup>

The final and greatest proof of Christ's absolute uniqueness is His resurrection. Not only did Christ die precisely at the time of His choosing, but He rose on the third day by His own power. Christ predicted this when He said that He had the power to lay His life down and He had the power to take it up again (John 10:17,18). After three days Christ rose from the dead. **Christians worship a "living" Lord. All other religious founders and leaders are dead.** In most cases their tombs are known and honored. Only the tomb of Christ was occupied for only three days and thereafter it was empty forever!

Christ alone conquered death, which clearly shows that Christ is exactly who He said He was, "the resurrection and the life". It is Christ's resurrection that gives Christians hope in life, the realization that they have nothing to fear from death, and the assurance that they will see Christ again after their death.<sup>4</sup>

This article is a compilation of four entries (Jan. 22, Jun. 1, Feb. 16, Apr. 12) on the subject of "Evidence From Comparing Religions" taken from the book, *A Closer Look At The Evidence*, by Richard & Tina Kleiss.<sup>5</sup> Although this amazing book contains evidence, researched from over 70 expert sources, for the **existence of a Creator**, for the **reliability of the Holy Bible**, and for the **trustworthiness of Christianity**, the information in this article all came from one source, the book, *Many Infallible Proofs - Evidences for the Christian faith*, another amazing book, by Henry M. Morris with Henry M. Morris III.

1. Morris, Henry M. with Henry M. Morris III, *Many Infallible Proofs - Evidences for the Christian faith*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, Inc., October 2005 p.10.

2. Morris, Henry M. with Henry M. Morris III, *Many Infallible Proofs - Evidences for the Christian faith*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, Inc., October 2005 p.11.

3. Morris, Henry M. with Henry M. Morris III, *Many Infallible Proofs - Evidences for the Christian faith*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, Inc., October 2005 p.156-157.

4. Morris, Henry M. with Henry M. Morris III, *Many Infallible Proofs - Evidences for the Christian faith*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, Inc., October 2005 p.14.

5. *A Closer Look At The Evidence*, Richard L. & Christina (Tina) E. Kleiss, Search for the Truth Pub., Midland, MI.