

Comparison of World Religions³

This chart is adapted from Kenneth Boa: *Cults, World Religions and the Occult*

| Christian Doctrine | Hinduism | Buddhism | Islam | Judaism |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Jesus Christ John 1:1-3, 14; 8:58; Col. 1:16-20 | Without recognition of any kind given to Christ. | Without recognition of any kind given to Christ. | Jesus Christ is nothing more than a prophet of god. | Rabbinic teaching holds that there must be two Messiahs: Son of Joseph, who would die, and Son of David, who would establish the kingdom on earth. |
| Tri-Unity Luke 3:21-22; 1 Peter 1:2; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26 | God is an "it" in Philosophical Hinduism, and in Popular Hinduism there are great multitudes of gods. In a sense: man is god. | Without recognition of the Tri-Unity. Most Buddhist sects are polytheistic, pantheistic or atheistic. | There is only one god and that is Allah. | There is only one God and that is Yahweh. |
| Everyone has an eternal spirit. Matt. 25:46; Dan. 12:2; Eccl. 2:7; Rev. 20:11-15 | Yes, and it continues through many incarnations. | Guatama, founder of Buddhism, claimed that men have no souls. | Yes | Yes |
| Born a Lost Soul Ps. 51:5; James 1:15; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:21-22 | Without recognition of sin and moral guilt. Sin is an illusion. | Guatama claimed that men do not have souls. | No | Judaism rejects the doctrine of original sin, saying that sin is an act, not a state. |
| Salvation John 3:14-17; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3: 21-30; 10:4, 9-10; Gal. 2:16 | Hinduism is a works system. Forgiveness of sin does not fit into the picture of karma (cause and effect). Each person has many lives in which to reach salvation. | Theravada Buddhism: salvation by self-effort. Mahayana Buddhism: salvation of one dependent on the grace of others. | After the resurrection, each man's deeds will be weighed to determine his destiny - heaven or hell. | Man does not need redemption. Repentance (turning back to God) is all that is needed when one fails to live according to the law. |
| Sacred Books (Authority) The Holy Bible | Smriti-revealed script. Smriti-tradition. These groups of books contain many contradictions. | Buddhist scriptures and sayings attributed to Guatama were written about four centuries after his death, and there is no way to be certain they are really his words. | Koran - most important, Tauret, Pentateuch of Moses, Zabur (Psalms of David), Injil (Evangel of Jesus) | The Torah, The Old Testament, The Talmud |
| Suggested approaches for presenting the Christian faith. | Address the Hindu argument that all religions are the same. Emphasize the unique claims of Jesus. No other religion offers a real solution to the problem of sin. Books of the Bible are harmonious; Hindu scriptures contradict one another. Man is born as a lost human headed for hell because he inherited the sin of Adam. | Give a positive and clear exposition of the claims of Christ and His victory over sin and death. Christ offers salvation; Buddhism does not. Each person must work out his own salvation. Adjust and accommodate for the manner in which Buddhism has become embedded in the culture. Make a strong case for the Bible - archaeology, history and prophecy. | Christians must focus on the problem of sin, contrasting what God of the Bible has done about it, with what Allah has not done. Ask questions to determine views. Muslims have no personal relationship with God. Focus on the true deity of Jesus Christ, the lost nature of man, and the salvation offered by Jesus. Point out the error of works righteousness. | Original Christians were all Jews. NOTE that a Jew does not have to give up his Jewishness to become a Christian. Christianity is not a Gentile religion. NT was written by Jews (except Luke) and Jesus was a Jew. Emphasize Isaiah 53 as prophetic of Jesus' coming. |