

Salvation

Every person has sinned, resulting in a broken relationship with God. We cannot save ourselves, no matter how many good works we do. We can be saved only by the grace of God, given to us through faith in Jesus Christ. His death was the full and sufficient atonement for our sins. As we trust in Jesus to be our Lord and Saviour, our sins are completely forgiven and we are right with God.

- **Eph 2:4, 8-9** ⁴ “But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!). ... ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”

The future, judgement & eternity

Jesus will return to establish God’s kingdom and judge the world. Our eternal destiny is determined by our response to God’s grace. For those who are saved through faith in Christ, there is a heaven of eternal glory in the presence of Christ. But for those who are not saved, there is a hell of eternal suffering and separation from God.

- **John 3:16-18** ¹⁶ “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son.”
- **John 3:36** ³⁶ “And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”

3. An Evangelical Christian shares the good news with others

- **2 Tim 1:8** ⁸ “So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord.”
- **Mark 16:15** ¹⁵ “And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”

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All Scripture references are from “The Holy Bible: New Living Translation” unless otherwise noted

ST. JOSEPH ISLAND FREE METHODIST CHURCH

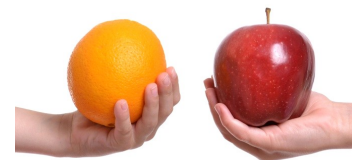
SERMON NOTES

SUN APR 24 2016

PASTOR ADRIAN COLLINS

So What’s the Difference?

Comparing Evangelical Christianity to Other Faiths



#3 – What is an Evangelical Christian?

1. An Evangelical Christian has experienced the new birth

We become Christians when we are “born again”

- **John 3:3** ³ “Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

Why we need to be born again

- **Rom 3:23-26** ²³ “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.”
- **1 John 1:8** ⁸ “If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.”

How to become a born again Christian

- **Rom 10:9-10,13** ⁹“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ... ¹³For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

2. An Evangelical Christian holds to key doctrinal beliefs

The importance of doctrinal beliefs

- **1 Tim 4:16** ¹⁶“Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.”
- **2 Tim 2:2-4** ²“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. ³For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will reject the truth and chase after myths.”

The authority of the Bible

The Bible is God’s written word, a trustworthy and true record of God’s revelation to people. The Bible bears unerring witness to God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, creation and people. The Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture and reveals truth as we read it.

- **2 Tim 3:16-17** ¹⁶“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”
- **Heb 4:12** ¹²“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”

God the Father

There is one living and true God, creator of all things. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God the Father is eternal, unchanging, perfect, holy, just, loving and merciful. He seeks a personal relationship with every person.

- **Exod 34:6-7a** ⁶“The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. ⁷I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty.”

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is fully God, the second person of the trinity, and has always existed. Jesus is the only way we can have a relationship with God the Father. Jesus came to earth, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross to atone for our sins. He rose from the dead and is alive today as our exalted Lord who intercedes for us.

- **Col 1:17-20** ¹⁷“He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. ¹⁹For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.”
- **John 14:6** ⁶“Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully God, the third person of the trinity, who reveals Jesus Christ to us. The Holy Spirit is active in our conviction, regeneration, sanctification and glorification. He indwells Christians, teaching, guiding, convicting, and comforting them.

- **John 16:8, 13-15** ⁸“And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. ... ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’”