

women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. ²⁷ And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. ²⁸ Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done”

We acknowledge the truth about God by faith.

- **Heb 11:1-3** ¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (NIV)
- **Heb 11:6** ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”

Faith comes by trusting in Jesus as our Lord & Saviour

- **Rom 10:17** ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.”
- **Rom 10:8-13** ⁸ In fact, it says, “The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart.” And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: 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. ¹⁰ For 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. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
- **Rom 5:10-11** ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.”
- **Jer 29:11-14** ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” says the Lord.”

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

ST. JOSEPH ISLAND FREE METHODIST CHURCH

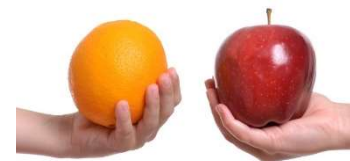
SERMON NOTES

SUN AUG 21 2016

PASTOR ADRIAN COLLINS

So What’s the Difference?

Comparing Evangelical Christianity to Other Faiths



#15 – Atheism

A. What is Atheism?

- Atheism is the view that God does not exist. The universe is only matter and energy, and there is nothing beyond our natural world, no spiritual realm.
- For the atheist, there is no hope other than this life, no meaning or purpose to life. People do not need salvation because there is nothing to be saved from.
- Agnosticism is the view that we cannot know whether or not God exists.
- Atheists and agnostics represent about 15% of the population.
- A significant number of people are living as practical atheists ... believing that there is a God but living as if there is no God.

B. So What's the Difference?

God has revealed Himself to us...

In the creation, design, and sustaining of our world

- **Gen 1:1-4, 1:31-2:1** ¹ "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. ... ³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day. ¹ So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed."
- **Ps 19:1-4** ¹ "The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. ² Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. ³ They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. ⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world."
- **Gen 2:7** ⁷ Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person."
- **Ps 139:13-15** ¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb."
- **Rom 11:36** ³⁶ For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen."
- **Heb 1:3** ³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command."

Through our moral code and desire for purpose

- **Rom 2:14-15** ¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right."
- **Eccl 3:11** ¹¹ Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end."

In the Gospel message and the person of Jesus Christ

- **John 1:17-18** ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but God's unending love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us."
- **Gal 1:11-12** ¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. ¹² I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ."
- **Mat 16:16-17** ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being."
- **1 John 5:20** ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life."
- **John 14:9b** "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!"

It matters how we respond to God

Not acknowledging the truth about God is foolishness.

- **Ps 14:1** ¹ Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."
- **Rom 1:18-23** ¹⁸ But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. ²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles."
- **Rom 1:24-28** ²⁴ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. ²⁶ That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the