

- **1 Pet 3:18** <sup>18</sup> Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God.”
- **Truth: After death, every person will stand before God to be judged for what we have done in our life on earth.**
- **Heb 9:27** <sup>27</sup> And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment,”
- **2 Cor 5:10** <sup>10</sup> For we must all stand before Christ to be judged.”

**Eternity in Heaven is waiting for those who trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Not reincarnation.**

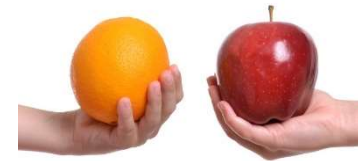
- **Truth: There are only two possible outcomes following death. Those who trust in Jesus for salvation will go on to eternal life in heaven. Those who do not will spend eternity in hell.**
- **Mat 25:46** <sup>46</sup> And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”
- **Luke 23:43** <sup>43</sup> And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
- **2 Cor 5:1** <sup>1</sup> For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.”
- **Rev 21:3-4** <sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”
- **1 Pet 1:3-5,9** <sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, <sup>4</sup> and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. <sup>5</sup> And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. ... <sup>9</sup> The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.”

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

# So What’s the Difference?

*Comparing Evangelical Christianity to Other Faiths*



## #13 – Hinduism & Buddhism

### A. Hinduism

- No individual founder, no central organization, and no consistent theology
- Approx. 900 million adherents worldwide today, with thousands of sub groups
- Many writings considered holy texts, including the Vedas
- One Supreme God (Brahman) manifests himself in many forms, including thousands of sub-gods and goddesses. Hindu families have their own shrines & idols to worship their choice of gods.
- Everything and everyone are part of god, but most people are not aware of it. No separation between Creator and creation.
- Jesus Christ is a teacher and an enlightened guru. He is a son of God as are others. The Holy Spirit is not part of Hindu beliefs.
- The universe undergoes endless cycles of creation and destruction.
- Humans are caught in Samsara, a cycle of birth, death & rebirth.
- Karma is the sum of good and bad deeds. Karma determines where the soul will be housed in its next life. A person will pay for past sins through suffering.
- The soul reincarnates, evolving through many cycles of birth and rebirth until all karma’s have been resolved.

- Hindu's hope for Moshka (salvation) which is the release from the cycle of karma and reincarnation. This is achieved through good works and meditation that offsets bad karma.

## B. Buddhism

- In the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, the original Buddha (Enlightened One) is Siddhartha Gautama, who was previously a Hindu prince. The Dalai Lama is the well-known current leader of Tibetan Buddhists.
- There are many writings considered holy texts.
- There is no God or Supreme Creator.
- There is no right or wrong. There is no such thing as sin.
- People are enlightened by self-effort, and by turning inward, repeating certain mantras to open up deeper consciousness.
- Jesus is seen as a fully enlightened being, but not God. The Holy Spirit is not part of Buddhist beliefs.
- All living beings are subject to karma and rebirth.
- The Four Noble Truths represent Buddhism's central doctrines
  1. Life is suffering (Dukkha)
  2. Suffering is caused by our desires and attachments
  3. We can end suffering by developing non-attachment
  4. We can advance our consciousness by acting and thinking in specific ways...the Eightfold Path
- The Buddhist Eight-Fold path leads to Enlightenment & Nirvana:
  1. Right Speech
  2. Right Action
  3. Right Livelihood
  4. Right Mindfulness
  5. Right Meditation
  6. Right View
  7. Right Resolve
  8. Right Effort
- The goal of life is Nirvana – to eliminate all desires or cravings, and to be free from all attachments, to achieve non-existence. Buddhism denies the existence of a person's soul.

## C. So What's the Difference?

### We can know God our Father, and have a relationship with Him, through His Son Jesus

- **Truth: There is one true God who created all things. We can know God. He seeks a personal relationship with everyone.**
- **Acts 17:24-25** <sup>24</sup> "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, <sup>25</sup> and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need."
- **Col 1:9-11** <sup>9b</sup> We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup> Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. <sup>11</sup> We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need."
- **Truth: Jesus is the one and only eternal Son of God. We can have a relationship with God through Jesus.**
- **Col 1:15** <sup>15</sup> Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation."
- **John 14:6** <sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

### Salvation comes through faith in Jesus, not through self-effort or an accumulation of good karma.

- **Truth: We are sinners who need a Saviour. We are saved by grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ alone.**
- **Eph 2:4-10** <sup>4</sup> But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> 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!) <sup>6</sup> For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."