

COMPARISON OF RELIGIONS

We are providing this article to compare and contrast the beliefs of Christianity with those of other major religions as well as with some of the theologies, philosophies, and pseudo religions that exist. Individual articles on each of the following groups can be found on this website at <http://www.sourceoftruelife.com/Resources>:

Christianity and its two main branches (**Protestantism** and **Catholicism**)

Judaism

Islam

Buddhism

Hinduism

Mormonism

Jehovah's Witnesses

Unitarian Universalism

Pseudo Religions

Before making comparisons, it should be noted that not all religions, theologies, and philosophies about spiritual things or life are equal. Some are considered pseudo religions or pseudo theologies. Here is how Wikipedia describes these terms:

Pseudo religion or pseudo theology is a pejorative for a non-mainstream belief system or philosophy which is functionally similar to a religious movement, typically having a founder, principal text, liturgy, and faith-based beliefs. Belief systems such as Theosophy, corporate Kabbalism, Christian Science, Scientology, Wahhabism, Salafism, and the Nation of Islam have all been referred to as pseudo religions, as have various New Age religions, as well as political ideologies such as Nazism and Positive Christianity. Within the academic debate, political ideologies that resemble religion are sometimes referred to as political religions . . . the mainstream ascribes to them a fringe status.*

We believe that followers of Jesus, the Church, are God's family and that God is the one true God of the universe. Look carefully at the following differences among belief systems:

Comparison of Major Religions

	Christianity	Judaism	Islam	Buddhism	Hinduism
God(s)	One God, a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit	One God they call Yahweh	One God they call Allah	One god, manifested in many forms	One god, Brahman, but manifested in many forms
Person of Jesus	Messiah, Son of God, God in flesh	False prophet	Prophet	He was a Buddha	A holy man
Sacred Text(s)	Bible, both the Old and New Testaments	Hebrew Bible	Qur'an	Sutras	Upanishads, Mahabharata & four Vedas
Founder	Jesus Christ	Abraham	Muhammed	Siddhartha Gautama	No one founder
Groups	Protestant Catholic Orthodox	Orthodox Conservative	Shiite Sunni Sufi	Monks Commoners	Caste system
Beliefs	God created all things. Sin necessitated the need for salvation that only comes through Jesus. To go to heaven, you must be born again.	God loves and protects His own. Persons serve God by studying the Torah and living by its teachings.	Persons find salvation by the 5 Pillars: faith, prayer, almsgiving, fasting and a pilgrimage to Mecca.	Find peace and happiness (nirvana) by eliminating worldly things & following the Noble Eightfold Path.	Your soul never dies but is continually reborn. Happiness and enlightenment by eliminating worldly things.
Afterlife	Heaven in God's presence with rebirth; hell outside of God's presence without it	Messiah will come and let us know	Pleasant, based on rewards and punishments	Release from wheel of life and cycle of birth, rebirth	Reincarnation based on moral code and Caste system
Practices	Baptism. Communion. Corporate and individual worship. Prayer and Bible study.	Circumcision at birth, bar/bat mitzvah at adulthood, observing Sabbath.	Five Pillars. Mosque on Fridays. Ablutions before prayer. No alcohol or pork.	Meditation, mantras, devotion to deities (in some sects), mandalas (Tibetan).	Yoga, meditation, worship, live according to one's purpose, devoted to a god or a goddess.
Church and State	Separate with respect for authorities	Ten Commandments and Mishna	Theology: no separation, Sharia law		

Comparison of Christianity to Some Theologies/Philosophies/Belief Systems

	Christianity	Mormonism	Jehovah's Witnesses (JW)	Unitarian Universalism (UU)
God(s)	One God, three persons known as Father, Son and Holy Spirit	Three separate persons, a triad. God was once a man.	One God, Jehovah.	One God whose concepts is left to each individual
Person of Jesus	Messiah, God in flesh, Son of God, divine conception	Part man, part God. Conceived by physical sex. Our elder brother from the star Kolob.	Created by God as an angel. Not equal or co-existent with God. Not God in flesh.	Not an atoning Savior. A good man with good teachings.
Sacred Text(s)	Bible, Old and New Testament	Bible, Book of Mormon, other writings	The New World Translation (NWT), their own translation.	Sacred writings of all religions.
Founder	Jesus Christ	Joseph Smith	Charles Taze Russell and other following	Gerrard Winstanley, 1648 book on it
Groups	Protestants Catholics Orthodox	One main body; up to 100 smaller ones	Anointed class and all other believers	One main body with very open beliefs.
Beliefs	God created all things. Sin necessitated the need for salvation that only comes through Jesus. To go to heaven, you must be born again.	Salvation through eternal progression. Universal salvation through the work of Jesus Christ. Atonement not related to salvation. Mormons are the true Church	Salvation by faith in Christ, association with the Jehovah's Witnesses body and obedience to its rules.	No set beliefs. Personal experience, conscience, and reason are the final authorities in life. Humans do not need salvation. All paths lead to God.
Afterlife	Heaven with rebirth; hell without it	Saved become gods. Lost go to eternal damnation and a place without God's presence.	Anointed class lives in heaven & rules with Christ. All other believers have eternal life in paradise	No set belief. Some believe in it, others do not. Very few believe in hell.
Practices	Baptism. Communion. Corporate and individual worship. Prayer and Bible study.	Baptism, including for the dead. Confirmation. Abstinence from all harmful substances. Weekly worship.	Baptism and dedication. Shunning of serious sinners or those who leave JW. Weekly temple.	Few baptisms. Life events ceremonies. No communion, but flower communion and water communion.
Church and State	Separate but respect for authorities	Total separation of church and state.	Totally separate, politically neutral, no military or political service.	Separation of church and state.

Here are a few **other resources** you may wish to explore, each providing additional information on the differences between Christianity, the main religions, and some of the theologies, philosophies, and other belief systems in the world:

[What does the Bible say about religion? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[There are so many different religions; how do I know which one is right? \(compellingtruth.org\)](#)

[What Are Some False Religions? \(bible-knowledge.com\)](#)

[List of US Christian Cults \(False Religious Churches\) – Coming Out Of Egypt \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[Why are there so many fake Christians? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What is Orthodox Christianity? - Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America \(goarch.org\)](#)

[comparison of world religions chart at DuckDuckGo](#)

[The Big Religion Chart - ReligionFacts](#)

[Cult Comparison Chart \(carlgallups.com\)](#)

[*Pseudoreligion - Wikipedia](#)