

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Introduction

Unitarian Universalism (UU) merges two errant philosophies regarding crucial spiritual matters. UU believes that there is no Trinity (Unitarianism), meaning Jesus was not God, and that all humans are going to be saved (Universalism), meaning there is no eternal punishment. Oddly, many UU adherents don't even believe there is an afterlife. UU has become attractive to those who abandon the teachings of Jesus and the Bible in order to avoid biblical truths and realities they do not wish to face, i.e., believe whatever you wish because it does not matter in the end.

Origin

Universalist thought traces to some in the early centuries of Christianity and beyond who struggled with the notion that some souls would experience eternal damnation and punishment in hell. They believed that all souls would be restored by a loving God. Universalist beliefs were known to have been taught in theological schools in Alexandria, Antioch, Caesarea, and Edessa, and later resurfaced in the writings and beliefs of some Pietists and Anabaptists in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries

In London in 1648, Gerrard Winstanley, the first verifiable believer in universalism, authored a book entitled *The Myserie of God Concerning the Whole Creation*. Europeans with universalist leanings, mostly Germans, came to America and settled in Mid-Atlantic colonies as well as Rhode Island. Universalists formed congregations, the first founded in Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1774. Universalism spread among German immigrants in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, then to southern states like South Carolina. By 1778, Universalists gathered for a first general assembly and formalized annual meetings by 1785.

In 1866, followers coalesced under the banner Universalist General Convention, but renamed themselves the Universalist Church of America (UCA) in 1942. In 1961, UCA consolidated with the American Unitarian Association, forming the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Main Beliefs

Following are the main UU beliefs, steeped in tolerance and lack of accountability for sin and evil:

There is one God, no Trinity. One's concept of God is left to the individual.

They believe Jesus was not God (divine), merely a good teacher.

All humans are good and do not need to be saved. They believe it is totally incompatible to fathom a loving God condemning persons to punishment and eternal damnation. Hence, Jesus' death was not the atoning, one-time sacrifice for sin. All humans have the capacity for goodness and will improve themselves personally.

The Bible is a human book, not the inspired Word of God. The sayings and records of Jesus are nothing but embellishments and exaggerations on the part of the authors who recorded them.

All paths (religions, philosophies) lead to God. Humans can decide for themselves what to believe and others should not infringe on that right. This stands in stark contrast to the straight and narrow path Jesus said was necessary and would lead to God through him (**Matthew 7:13-14; John 14:6**).

UU is alien to biblical Christianity. It is a false and dangerous belief system, contrary to the Word of God. While promoting tolerance and a way free of discrimination or prejudice, they reject traditional biblical Christian beliefs.

Demographics

Unitarian Universalism is a small religious group of 300,000 that has appeal to those who shun scrutiny and accountability. Adherents, according to their own website, are located in 33 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Closing Thoughts

For another important article on Unitarian Universalism from a partner organization, please visit www.sourceoftruelife.com/Resources/Universalism and to compare Unitarian Universalist thought to other religions, we invite you to explore www.sourceoftruelife.com/Resources/ComparisonofReligions

This is an introduction on the subject of **Unitarian Universalism**. Here are a few other resources you may wish to explore:

[Unitarian Universalism – What is it? \(compellingtruth.org\)](http://compellingtruth.org)

[What is Unitarian Universalism? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

[What Is Universalism and Unitarian Universalist? Christian Truths to Know \(crosswalk.com\)](http://crosswalk.com)