



**You asked for it**

**How is the way of Jesus different from other religions?**

<http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aiia/religionssame.html>

<http://www.gocampus.org/modx/index.php?id=109>

**I. Aren't all religions basically the same?**

**The Way of Jesus; Islam; Buddhism; Hinduism; Judaism; Mormonism; Jehovah Witness**

**A. Different Views of God**

- Hindus acknowledge multitudes of gods and goddesses.
- Mormons acknowledge thousands of gods
- Buddhists say there is no deity and seek a path of enlightenment
- Muslims believe in a powerful but unknowable God and Mohammed as His authoritative prophet

- Jesus taught that there was One True God and that He was His unique Son who revealed Him

### **B. Different views on life after death**

- Hindu's believe that they will eventually become one with an impersonal god in what they call Nirvana.
- Buddhist's say that Nirvana is a state of total nothingness.
- Judaism has many different understandings of life after death. Some say that there is no life after death, and others believe God will judge humans based upon their works both Jews and Gentiles, rewarding those who do good works and punishing those who do bad works.
- Muslim's believe that those who follow the 5 pillars of Islam will spend eternity with Allah and be given every sensual desire of their heart.
- Jesus taught that there will be a final Day of Judgment and that those who come to God through Him will be saved and go to heaven and that those who reject Him judge themselves and their deeds will condemn them before God
- Jehovah Witnesses teach that 144,000 of the best Jehovah Witnesses will be dwell on the New Earth, others whose good works commend them will enjoy the New Heaven and the wicked will be annihilated

### **C. Different views of spiritual authority**

- Jesus taught that the Scriptures were the authoritative Word of God and claimed that His Word had God's authority
- Orthodox Judaism: The Old Testament, especially the Torah as interpreted by the Talmud and the Rabbinic writings
- Islam: The Koran in the Arabic language
- Mormonism: The Bible, The Book of Mormon, The Doctrines and the Covenants, The Pearl of Great Price, the Teachings of the Modern Day Prophet
- Buddhists follow the teaching of the Buddha as found in the Tripitaka, the Sutras and the Tibetan Book of the Dead
- Hindus trust in the Vedas and the Upanishads
- Jehovah Witness interpret the Bible based upon the New World Translation and following the teachings of the Watchtower Tract and Bible Society

### **D. Different views of salvation**

- Muslims believe you must worship Allah as God and Mohammed as His prophet and practice the 5 pillars of Islam

- Judaism believes you must do good works; for Jews one must obey the Torah and for Gentiles, one must obey the 7 Noahide laws
- Hindus believe in karmic reincarnations based upon good works and meditation with the divine consciousness
- Jehovah witness teach that one must believe in Jesus as Jehovah's messenger and practice good works
- Buddhist follow the path of enlightenment but understand salvation in terms of letting go and being free of temporal desires
- Jesus taught that He was the only way to salvation and that people must repent and believe in Him

**E.** All religions are not the same; therefore they all can't be true. They are either all false or one is true and the other's are false

## **II. How is the way of Jesus different from other religions?**

1. **Jesus preached that people must repent by turning from self to God**
2. **Jesus taught that we must be Born Again by believing in Him as the unique Son of God**
3. **Jesus called His followers to radical obedience**
4. **Jesus emphasized that loving God and loving our neighbor fulfilled the whole Law**
5. **Jesus declared that true religion was a heart relationship with God**