

## ***Introduction to Counterfeits of Christianity***

**10-16-19**

1. How many different religions are there in the world today?  
(Consult “Google” - you will get 497,000,000 returns)
2. Definition of religion: a belief system that attempts to explain some aspect of reality and often how the physical and spiritual world operates.
3. Definition of a cult: a religious offshoot of a major religion that no longer holds to the core tenets of that religion.
4. What is Biblical Christianity and why is it different?
5. The term “Christian” means one who is associated with and follows Christ. (Acts 11:26)
6. The Word of God is central to a Christian’s life.
7. The early Christians (Roman Empire) were often despised and at times suffered extreme persecution.
8. Teachings of the Apostles (early church) brought about much debate. (Acts 15:1-12)
9. During the first few centuries - basic Christian beliefs were summarized in the Apostle’s Creed.  
(not written by the Apostles themselves)
10. Christian leaders began meeting to work out statements of what they believed about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
11. The different meetings are known as the Council of Nicea (325), the Council of Constantinople (381), and the Council of Chalcedon (451).
12. Over the centuries, man-made traditions, rituals, false teaching, and corruption has crept into the church.
13. The Reformation (16<sup>th</sup> Century) was an attempt by many to return to the biblical Christianity of the early church.  
    Augsburg Confession - 1530; Heidelberg Catechism - 1563  
    Westminster Confession of Faith - 1646
14. The following is a list of seven questions that will form a framework around Biblical Christianity:
  - A. Who is God and how is He active in the world?
  - B. Who are we and where did we come from?
  - C. What is the Bible and how is it different from other books?
  - D. Who is Jesus Christ and what did He accomplish?
  - E. What is Christ doing now by the Holy Spirit?

F. What is the church of Jesus Christ?

G. How will Christ His Kingdom to earth in glory?