

The Distinguishing Differences Between Religion and True Biblical Christianity

John 3:1-16



- I. Most religions are **polytheistic**. Christianity is **monotheistic**.
 - a. Many religions believe that there are 'many deities' that control differing aspects of life.
 - b. Christianity believes there is 'one divine' Creator and Sustainer of all things expressed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- II. Religions are **based on man's teachings and traditions**. Christianity is **based on God's holy, unchangeable Word**.
 - a. Religions are based on 'what religious teachers say.'
 - b. Biblical Christianity has always believed that God's Word is pure, perfect, inspired and preserved by God.Read: 2 Timothy 3:15-17, 2 Peter 1:16-21

- III. Religion teaches that **man is naturally good** and can merit eternal life based on **good works**. Christianity teaches that **man is inherently sinful** and can only obtain salvation by **God's grace alone** through personal faith in Christ.
 - a. Religion is essentially about man trying to 'climb a ladder' to heaven – earning enough favor with God – to be accepted by God.
 - b. True biblical Christianity asserts that there is no ladder to heaven. Even if there was, you would not have the power or the ability to 'climb up the ladder' because you are spiritually dead in your trespasses and sins.Read: John 3:3-7, John 3:15-18, Ephesians 2:8-9

- IV. Religion focuses on the **outward actions of man being clean**. Christianity focuses on the **inward man being clean**.
- a. Religion teaches that 'you have to do your best' and 'hope for the best' when God outweighs your works.
 - b. Christianity teaches that when a person is born again they can know for sure that all will be well with their soul.
- Read: John 3:15, John 3:16, 1 John 5:12-13, Romans 8:15-17, John 17:3
- V. Religion hates Christianity and has been the **primary source of persecution toward Christianity**. True Christianity **never encourages persecution** toward other religions.
- a. Religion has been the primary source of persecution toward those who boldly yet compassionately teach the truths of God's Word.
 - b. True biblical Christianity never calls for violence as a means of submission.
- Read: Genesis 4, Matthew 26:47-56, John 18:36
- VI. **All religious leaders have died** and remained dead, **Jesus died and rose again**.
- a. Other religious leaders have died and remained dead.
 - b. Jesus died and rose again the third day – proving Himself to be God.
- Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, John 11:25-26, Romans 14:9
- VII. All other religions are **false**, Christianity is **true**.
- a. Religion will lead you to hell.
 - b. Jesus Christ alone can bring you to heaven.
- Read: John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5, Ephesians 4:4-6

Concluding Statements

1. Jesus Hates Organized Religion
2. Jesus Loves and Offers Salvation to Religious Pretenders and Non-Religious Pagans

Other Scripture Passages to Read and Consider:

Acts 9:1-16, Luke 18:9-14, Matthew 19:16-26, Acts 16:25-40, Philippians 3:3-11



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