

Chapter 1 : Christianity - Faith in God, Jesus Christ - Christian Living, Trivia

The Big Religion Chart. This "Big Religion Chart" is our attempt to summarize the major religions and belief systems of the world - Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and dozens more - into a quick-reference comparison chart.

Religion Comparison Religion Comparison - A Comparison of "Religions" Within the Christian Church

Arguably, the most divisive religion comparison occurring in the world today is within the Christian "religion" itself. Groups which self-identify as part of Christianity include but are not limited to: These groups exhibit varying degrees of doctrinal similarity and cooperation. However, there are often striking and divisively opposed arguments concerning particular doctrines of faith. So, why are there so many different denominations, movements, groups and cults within the so-called Christian church, many of which claim to possess the "Fullness of the Faith" to the exclusion of the others? Actually, the "Body of Christ" includes every member of the human race who has established a relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ, the Son. According to the Bible, that requires repentance of sin, acceptance of Christ as personal Savior, and a commitment to God through obedience to His will. Regardless of denomination or affiliation, these are the people that constitute the Body of Christ - the true Christian church. The various denominations, movements and groups that exist today are primarily the result of the Protestant Reformation. Other significant periods in world and U. Religion Comparison - The Core of Christianity

Why is there so much "religion comparison" within the Christian church today? Does it grieve God that we have formed various denominations in His church? God loves variety, and we are able to witness His love for it in nature as well as in our fellow man. He equally honors and blesses people of many denominations, even though their worship of Him may be liturgical, ceremonial or informal. The important issue is that we worship Jesus Christ when we congregate in His name. If the foundations of the Christian faith are consistent among the various denominations, all of the other "side" doctrines and ceremonies are not that important. Most importantly, our daily walk with Christ must be rooted in a relationship of faith and love for our Lord. Christianity is a process of spiritual growth and maturity, not a one-time event or weekly obligation tied to a physical location. True Christianity requires a daily surrendering of our will to the will of our Creator. The church we attend each week is somewhat insignificant compared to how we devote ourselves to God with each moment in our life. Jesus Christ founded Christianity, but not as a "religion" or with the intention of making it an exclusive type of "organization". Rather, the Apostles were specifically instructed to spread the Gospel first to the Jews, and then to the Gentiles, and then to the outer most ends of the earth. Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is not a denomination. Christianity is not a church building. It is trusting in Jesus and what He did on the cross for you

1 Corinthians Christianity is not about religious traditions, ornate buildings, flamboyant preachers, rules, rituals or robes. Christianity is about truly receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Christians should be comparing their hearts to the timeless message of Jesus Christ in the Bible. Simply, heaven is promised to all who have been "regenerated", or "born-again", and is one of the promises that God has given to us in His Word. If we have truly received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we are promised to be in the presence of God immediately upon our physical death. No single denomination or group has a "lock" on the perfect knowledge of God. In fact, the Bible tells us that some truths will not be revealed to us in this lifetime. The point must be made that the core beliefs of any Christian denomination must be rooted in the Gospel. Is Salvation a gift or something to be earned? It must be that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone and not by any kind of works or deeds

Ephesians 2: God , the Father, sent His only Son to satisfy that judgment for those who believe in Him. Jesus , the creator and eternal Son of God, who lived a sinless life, loves us so much that He died for our sins, taking the punishment that we deserve, was buried , and rose from the dead according to the Bible. If you truly believe and trust this in your heart, receiving Jesus alone as your Savior , declaring, " Jesus is Lord ," you will be saved from judgment and spend eternity with God in heaven. What is your response?

Chapter 2 : The Big Religion Chart - ReligionFacts

Jesus was Jewish. But the Jewish religious leaders mostly rejected Him. They were expecting their prophesied Messiah to come and be a Ruler (political) to deliver them from the Romans. But their preconceived ideas blinded them. God's thoughts and God's ways are not man's ways. Jesus came as.

That is a very shocking thing to the common observer to realize that the word "religion" is mentioned, in a bad connotation, six of those seven times. When we use the word "religion," we think of something good immediately. You ask a person, "Are you saved? I belong to a religion. I am a very religious person. In the Word of God, the word "religion" is, six times out of seven, mentioned as something bad. The only time that religion is mentioned, with a good connotation, is in James 1: Religion will send more people to Hell than liquor. More people will be in Hell because they were religious than of any single reason in the world. May I say, by way of introducing my message: Religion and Christ are in opposition to each other. Religion says man must do something to get to Heaven, join something to get to Heaven, have something done to him to get to Heaven. Christ says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: Religion began in the Bible in Genesis, Chapter 3. Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. They had eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When they did, they tried to sew themselves fig leaves. They made coverings for themselves. They were making themselves a covering for their sin. God killed an animal, and brought from that animal a coat of skins. God offered to Adam and Eve a coat that He made. A coat made by the shedding of blood. A coat made with the slaying of an animal. God gave, to Adam and Eve, that coat, as a covering for their sins. Religion began by man trying to cover himself without a blood sacrifice. The fig leaves were not made of a blood sacrifice. Either you must pay the price for your own sin, by being plunged into Hell forever, or you must have an innocent sacrifice to die for your sins. It has always been that way. There must be blood shed for sins. Adam and Eve, realizing they were naked, made themselves a covering for sin. You cannot cover your own sin! God must initiate the reconciliation between the sinner and a holy God. It is always the sinned-against that must initiate reconciliation. The sinner does not find his way back to the sinned-against. It is the one who has been offended who must initiate reconciliation. God made, from a slain animal, a coat for Adam and a coat for Eve. Religion was not enough. Making their own covering was not enough. They had to receive the covering that God had made for them. Religion began in Genesis, Chapter 3. Religion continues in Genesis, Chapter 4. Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve, were in the field. They decided to come and bring their offerings to God. Abel brought of a blood sacrifice. He brought an animal. He killed that animal. There was blood shed. He brought that bloody sacrifice as an offering to God. Cain brought some green beans, dandelions, gladiolus, squash, turnip greens. He brought sacrifice of the field. They brought a covering they made from the field. God brought a covering He made from a sacrifice. Adam and Eve were saved when they reached out and took the covering that God had brought, because of the shedding of blood. Now, why was Cain lost and his offering rejected? Why was Abel saved and his offering accepted? For the same reason Adam and Eve had to be covered by blood sacrifice. God does not accept any sacrifice that does not require the shedding of blood of an innocent substitute. Now, Cain was religious. He believed in God. He believed in sacrificing. He believed in giving. He believed in coming to church. He was religious, but the Bible says he died and went to Hell. Abel was not necessarily more religious than Cain; but Abel brought a blood sacrifice. You have to have a blood sacrifice. So Cain was refused and Abel was accepted. Because Abel was a better man than Cain? Because Abel was a nicer guy? You will not go to heaven because you are better than somebody else. The honest simple truth is, a lot of folks will be in Hell, who are better than a lot of people, who will go to Heaven. Did you hear what I said? A lot of people will walk the golden streets and enjoy the joys of Heaven, who are not as good as some people who will burn in Hell forever! He can absolve and cross his bosom all he wants to. You can cross your bosom all you want to, but unless you have been born of the Spirit of God, by faith and the blood of Christ, you will die and go to Hell someday. You can go to the Pope in Rome and have the Pope absolve your sins. Religionâ€™ that will take you to Hell. Christâ€™ He takes you to Heaven. Religion began in the Bible. Fig leaves, in Genesis 3. Bloodless sacrifice, in Genesis 4. Now why is it that men do not want to

accept Christ and what He did? We want folks to brag on us. We want to do it ourselves. When a preacher gets up and says you cannot do anything deserving Heaven, the old flesh says, "What do you mean? What do you mean? I pay my debts. I am a good neighbor. I am a good fellow. So, what is it? Religion began in the Bible with fig leaves, in Genesis 3, and a bloodless offering by Cain, in Genesis 4. Next is organized religious in Genesis. In the 10th Chapter of Genesis, a man rises on the scene whose name is Nimrod. Nimrod is a man who organizes all religions into one in Genesis, Chapter 10. You recall that tower of Babel they built in the 11th Chapter of Genesis, trying to build their own way toward Heaven, trying to earn Heaven, trying to make a man-made salvation. Man has been trying to build his way to Heaven ever since that day. Man has been trying to earn Heaven ever since that day. There is nothing you can do to earn Heaven! There is nothing I can do to get you to Heaven! There is nothing this church can do to get you to Heaven!

In that regard, Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship that God has established with His children. In Christianity, God is the aggressor and man is the beneficiary (Romans). In Christianity, God is the aggressor and man is the beneficiary (Romans).

Many name the Name of Christ 2 Tim. The following chart may be helpful: I must somehow earn or gain salvation by the way I live. Salvation is of the LORD! Religion is summed up in one word: Christianity is summed up in one word: The religious man is busy "working" doing good works in order to be saved. The saved person is "not working" Rom. A Word to Believe 1 Pet. Man hoping to save himself God saving hopeless man 1 Tim. Religion is man trusting his own good works Titus 3: Salvation is man trusting the good work which the Lord Jesus did on the cross Rom. A religious ritual A real relationship John Doing Something Knowing Someone John Man truly pleasing God in the only way Hebrews Christ had to pay the price for my salvation 1 Cor. The sinner sees himself as good Luke The sinner sees himself as sinful Luke The religious man compares himself with others Luke The saved man sees himself as God sees him 1 Samuel I have done that which God has required" Matthew A religious man trying to earn his way to heaven by works may be likened to a man trying to swim from New York to London by his own efforts and energy and strength. He will never make it! The person who is saved by faith is likened to a man getting on a ship in New York and trusting that ship to bring him safely to London. This man simply rests upon the ship and lets the ship do all the work. The religious man is seeking to establish his own righteousness Rom. The saved man is satisfied with the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ 2 Cor. Religion is pictured in Genesis 3 by the fig leaves that Adam and Eve made for themselves--a terrible covering Gen. Salvation is pictured in Genesis 3 by the coats of skin which God provided by way of the shedding of blood--a perfect covering Gen. An innocent substitute must die to save me" Gen. Religion teaches that good works are the cause of salvation. The Bible teaches that good works are the result of salvation. Religion says, "Good works are those things that a person does to be saved. I try to follow Him and live as He lived. I am trusting Him and only Him to save me" Luke

Chapter 4 : The Changing Global Religious Landscape | Pew Research Center

Religion continues in the story of a rich man; a young man who came to Christ. He said, "Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" The Lord listed some of the commandments that He knew the fellow had kept.

Priests and kings were anointed, and occasionally prophets. Kings were anointed during their coronation rather than receiving a crown. For instance, David used it many times to refer to King Saul, even when Saul was trying to murder David and David was on the verge of killing Saul to defend himself: Often in the Old Testament, God would tell a prophet to go anoint someone and proclaim him king. The act of anointing with sacred oil emphasized that it was God himself who had ordained a person and given him authority to act as his representative. I remember being quite surprised when I first learned this. Throughout the Old Testament, we see little hints that God would send a great king to Israel who would someday rule the world. In Genesis, when Jacob blesses each of his sons and foretells his future, he says of Judah: He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever. It is first fulfilled in Solomon, who built the temple, but did what God forbade—amassed a great fortune and married foreign wives. His kingdom broke apart a few years after his death. When a king arose with great power, other kingdoms would send emissaries with lavish gifts to establish a friendly relationship with the future leader. This is what is happening in Matthew 2, when wise men come to bring gifts to Christ, the newborn king whose star they have seen in the east. The latter two passages both describe the coming of a great king and describe how representatives from nations everywhere would come to give him tribute: The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts. All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him. This was often part of the annunciation of a new king, as it was for Solomon in 1 Kings 1: It is the fulfillment of Zechariah 9: Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you! He is just and endowed with salvation; humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. But Jesus explained that his kingdom was not of this world. Rather, Jesus was talking about the kingdom of God, the major focus of his preaching. The kingdom of God is made up of those who submit their lives to God to reign over them. He speaks about how it is expanding like yeast or mustard seed as the news goes forth that he has arrived and people accept him as King. When he returns in glory, every knee on earth will bow to honor him as King. Philippians 2: Did the people around him see him as a king? Jesus seems even to expect that those who call him Lord obey him. This has implications about how we define ourselves as Christians. If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Religion in Ancient Rome includes the ancestral ethnic religion of the city of Rome that the Romans used to define themselves as a people, as well as the religious practices of peoples brought under Roman rule, in so far as they became widely followed in Rome and Italy.

What is the difference between religion and spirituality? Before we explore the difference between religion and spirituality, we must first define the two terms. The most common misconception about religion is that Christianity is just another religion like Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, etc. Sadly, many who claim to be adherents of Christianity do practice Christianity as if it were a religion. To many, Christianity is nothing more than a set of rules and rituals that a person has to observe in order to go to heaven after death. That is not true Christianity. True Christianity is not a religion; rather, it is having a right relationship with God by receiving Jesus Christ as the Savior-Messiah, by grace through faith. However, these rituals and rules are not the essence of Christianity. The rituals and rules of Christianity are the result of salvation. When we receive salvation through Jesus Christ, we are baptized as a proclamation of that faith. The most common misconception about spirituality is that there are many forms of spirituality, and all are equally valid. Meditating in unusual physical positions, communing with nature, seeking conversation with the spirit world, etc. True spirituality is possessing the Holy Spirit of God as a result of receiving salvation through Jesus Christ. Spirituality is all about becoming more like God, who is spirit John 4: What religion and spirituality have in common is that they both can be false methods of having a relationship with God. Religion tends to substitute the heartless observance of rituals for a genuine relationship with God. Spirituality tends to substitute connection with the spirit world for a genuine relationship with God. Both can be, and often are, false paths to God. At the same time, religion can be valuable in the sense that it points to the fact that there is a God and that we are somehow accountable to Him. The only true value of religion is its ability to point out that we have fallen short and are in need of a Savior. Spirituality can be valuable in that it points out that the physical world is not all there is. Human beings are not only material, but also possess a soul-spirit. There is a spiritual world around us of which we should be aware. The true value of spirituality is that it points to the fact that there is something and someone beyond this physical world to which we need to connect. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of both religion and spirituality. Jesus is the One to whom we are accountable and to whom true religion points. Jesus is the One to whom we need to connect and the One to whom true spirituality points. Are you interested in discovering true religion and true spirituality? If the answer is yes, please begin your journey on our webpage that describes receiving Jesus Christ as your Personal Savior - <https://theinnatdunvilla.com>

Chapter 6 : BBC - Religion: Christianity

Christianity is a salvation religion because it teaches a message of salvation which is supposed to apply to all of humanity. How salvation is achieved varies: some forms emphasize works, some emphasize faith, and some argue that salvation comes to all, regardless of the actual religion they follow.

This one God is called a Trinity. However, to say that God is three is a blasphemy of the highest order. All three parts of the Trinity are "coequal" "co-eternal" and "the same substance. He has no children, no parents nor any equal. In Islam God is known by the name "Allah" and more than 99 other venerated names, such as "the Merciful," "the Gracious," "the All-Powerful," etc. Jesus The second member of the Triune God, the Son of the first part of the Triune God, and at the same time "fully" God in every respect. A very elect and highly esteemed messenger of God. No Muslim is a Muslim if he does not believe this. He is the angel Gabriel. The angel Gabriel is highly esteemed as the "Trustworthy Spirit" Mary the mother of Jesus A chaste and pious human woman who gave birth to Jesus Christ, the second member of the Trinity, the Son of God, and at the same time "fully" God Almighty in every respect. A chaste and pious human woman who was chosen, purified, and preferred over all of the women of creation to be the one to give birth to Gods elect messenger Jesus through the command of God without any father whatsoever. Previous prophets All accepted, respected, and believed. All accepted, respected, and believed. Some believe that he was a liar, some believe he was a lunatic, some believe he was the False Messiah, and yet others claim he was deceived by the Devil. The last messenger of God to all of humanity. He was known as "The Truthful, the Trustworthy" before he received his first revelation. He was sent by God as a mercy to all creation. He was a human being but performed a number of miracles during his lifetime by the will of God. The last book of God sent to mankind. It was given the distinction of being personally guarded by God from human tampering. It is on a literary level never before seen by mankind. Message of Jesus That he was sent by God who was at the same time "fully" Jesus in order to die on the cross and save all mankind from the sin of Adam. Without this sacrifice all of humanity was destined to perish in the sin of Adam. After the crucifixion all that is required of humanity is faith without any works. That he was sent by God as a messenger to the Jews in order to return them to the pure and true religion of Moses, and to relieve them of some of the regulations which had been placed upon them in ancient times. He taught them to have faith as well as works. Neither one can stand alone. He performed them because he was the Son of God and also at the same time "fully" God and the "incarnation" of God. They were performed through the will of God just as Moses, Noah, and all other prophets did so in ancient times through the will of God. The crucifixion Jesus was given over to the Jews. He was spat on, cut, humiliated, kicked, striped, and finally hung up on the cross and killed very slowly and painfully. Jesus was not forsaken to the Jews to be abused and killed, however, it was "made to appear so to them. The second coming of Jesus. Originally expected to happen during the lifetime of the first disciples, many predictions have been made later and he is still expected at any moment. He is currently anticipated to arrive around the turn of the century C. Jesus did not die but was raised up into heaven by God. He shall return to earth just before the Day of Judgment in order to kill the "False Messiah" and to establish peace and justice on earth. He will kill the pigs, break the cross, and call all humanity to Islam. The original sin All of humanity has inherited the sin of Adam. Only the death of the sinless offspring of God could erase this sin. No one is born clean, no matter if his life is only for a single day. Only baptism and faith in the death of Jesus can save one from this destiny. There is no such thing. Humanity is created by God destined for heaven unless they chose to disobey Him and refuse His mercy. God can very trivially and effortlessly forgive the sins of all of Humanity no matter if they were to fill the lofty regions of the sky. Such a matter would be trivial and inconsequential for Him since He has already done much more than that such as creating everything we can ever see, hear or imagine. He loves to bestow His mercy and forgiveness on His creation and rewards the most trivial acts with the most tremendous rewards. Adam "atoned" for his sin by saying "My Lord I have sinned and if you do not forgive me and have mercy upon me then I shall indeed have lost. Similarly, all human beings have the door to forgiveness left open to them by God until the day they die. There are no intermediaries between mankind and God. If they

sincerely repent to God, ask His forgiveness, and forsake their evil deeds before their hour comes then He shall forgive them and there is nothing more pleasing to Him than to forgive the sins of one who comes to Him in sincere repentance. The path to salvation If you have faith in the atonement of Jesus for the sin of Adam which you have inherited then you shall be saved. You only need faith. No work is necessary. If you have faith in God, believe in His messengers, and obey His commands then He shall multiply every single good deed that you do many, many times and erase your evil deeds, until on the Day of Judgment His mercy shall cause your good deeds to far outweigh your evil deeds and grant you passage into an ecstasy and Paradise so great that we can not even imagine it, to abide there eternally. In the Hereafter there is only reward and no work. Jesus pbuh himself never had anything whatsoever to do with them. The "original sin" of Adam which mankind is alleged to have inherited. The "atonement," or death of Jesus pbuh on the cross in order to erase this sin of Adam. The "incarnation" of God in the form of a human being, namely, Jesus pbuh. It will further be demonstrated that the true message of Jesus pbuh was: That God is One. He has no equal. God has no children nor parents. There is no other god in existence other than God Himself. Jesus pbuh was a human being. He was not God, but only an elect messenger of God. God does not hold anyone responsible for the sin of anyone else, nor does He forgive the sins of one man by sacrificing another. God does not give preference to a certain race, color, nation, lineage or anything else above any other. God is a merciful god who bestows His forgiveness without a price or asking for any compensation. Entering into heaven requires both faith and work. Muslims are taught that throughout the ages, God sent messengers to all tribes and nations all over the earth beginning with Adam pbuh , the first prophet of God as well as the father of humanity. Every time a messenger of God would pass away, his people would begin to fall back on their evil deeds until a few generations later they would have managed to have completely corrupted His original message to them. Some of them would listen. However, the message would always be available for those who wanted it. In this manner, God made sure that all of mankind would always have access to His true religion, no matter where or when they lived. It would then be up to them to seek out this knowledge. Muslims are further taught that each messenger was sent only to his own people. His message was then fine-tuned to suit them. Thus, the basic message would be the same for all messengers: This was also true for Jesus pbuh. Jesus was sent specifically to the Jews, and only to the Jews. It shall be demonstrated how one of the most fundamental reasons which led up to the loss of his message was that those who came after him attempted to preach it to those for whom it was never intended, namely, the Gentiles. The Gentiles eventually managed to introduce into the message of Jesus many aspects of their own beliefs which ultimately led up to the loss of the message of Jesus. Jesus pbuh came to show the Jews how their religion had been changed from that preached to them by Moses and their previous prophets pbut. Jesus pbuh called the Jews back to the true religion of God sent down upon their previous messengers. Jesus himself observed every single aspect of the religion of Moses pbuh steadfastly and uncompromisingly. He fasted as Moses pbuh fasted, he worshipped as Moses pbuh worshipped, he refrained from tasting a single pig, he believed in circumcision and himself was circumcised, he observed the Sabbath, never having violated it. He did this up until the crucifixion. It was only after the crucifixion, according to the Bible, that he allegedly returned in "visions" to Paul in order to nullify the law he had spent his whole life upholding. The Bible actually bears witness that during his lifetime, Jesus commanded his followers to follow the religion of Moses pbuh and threatened severe retribution from God for all of his followers who would forsake a single aspect of this religion until the end of time see below. Jesus pbuh departed from this earth and his apostles continued to follow his teachings religiously. They too followed the religion of Moses pbuh as Jesus pbuh had done before them and commanded them to do. For the first three decades after the departure of Jesus pbuh , the followers of Jesus would merely be Jews who affirmed that Jesus pbuh was their promised Messiah. For the first three decades after the departure of Jesus pbuh , his followers would continue to worship in the synagogues and Temple of the Jews and observe all of the aspects of the religion of Moses pbuh without exception. By his own admission, he does his utmost to utterly waste the Church and to wipe the religion of Jesus from the face of the earth and the minds of men. He has never met Jesus pbuh in person. Suddenly Saul claims to be receiving "visions" from Jesus pbuh. The apostle Barnabas takes him under his wing, and through Barnabas he is accepted by the rest of the apostles.

Chapter 7 : Is Christianity a religion or a relationship?

There many religions around the world. One of CARM's goals is to compare them to the teachings of the Bible. We hope that by analyzing and comparing religions of the world to Christianity we hope that you will discover the truth found in Christianity has revealed in the Bible.

The Christian concept of the Messiah differs significantly from the contemporary Jewish concept. The core Christian belief is that through belief in and acceptance of the death and resurrection of Jesus , sinful humans can be reconciled to God and thereby are offered salvation and the promise of eternal life. Jesus, having become fully human , suffered the pains and temptations of a mortal man, but did not sin. As fully God, he rose to life again. According to the New Testament , he rose from the dead, [38] ascended to heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father [39] and will ultimately return [Acts 1: In comparison, his adulthood, especially the week before his death, is well documented in the gospels contained within the New Testament , because that part of his life is believed to be most important. The death and resurrection of Jesus are usually considered the most important events in Christian theology , partly because they demonstrate that Jesus has power over life and death and therefore has the authority and power to give people eternal life. Arguments over death and resurrection claims occur at many religious debates and interfaith dialogues. Salvation Christianity Paul the Apostle , like Jews and Roman pagans of his time, believed that sacrifice can bring about new kinship ties, purity and eternal life. The Catholic Church teaches that salvation does not occur without faithfulness on the part of Christians; converts must live in accordance with principles of love and ordinarily must be baptized. Reformed theology places distinctive emphasis on grace by teaching that individuals are completely incapable of self-redemption , but that sanctifying grace is irresistible. Together, these three persons are sometimes called the Godhead , [56] [57] [58] although there is no single term in use in Scripture to denote the unified Godhead. Though distinct, the three persons cannot be divided from one another in being or in operation. While some Christians also believe that God appeared as the Father in the Old Testament , it is agreed that he appeared as the Son in the New Testament , and will still continue to manifest as the Holy Spirit in the present. But still, God still existed as three persons in each of these times. In some Early Christian sarcophagi the Logos is distinguished with a beard, "which allows him to appear ancient, even preexistent. From earlier than the times of the Nicene Creed , , Christianity advocated [63] the triune mystery -nature of God as a normative profession of faith. According to Roger E. Olson and Christopher Hall, through prayer, meditation, study and practice, the Christian community concluded "that God must exist as both a unity and trinity", codifying this in ecumenical council at the end of the 4th century. The distinction lies in their relations, the Father being unbegotten; the Son being begotten of the Father; and the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and in Western Christian theology from the Son. Regardless of this apparent difference, the three "persons" are each eternal and omnipotent. The Greek word trias [66] [note 3] is first seen in this sense in the works of Theophilus of Antioch ; his text reads: It is found in many passages of Origen. Trinitarianism Trinitarianism denotes those Christians who believe in the concept of the Trinity. Almost all Christian denominations and churches hold Trinitarian beliefs. Since that time, Christian theologians have been careful to emphasize that Trinity does not imply that there are three gods the antitrinitarian heresy of Tritheism , nor that each hypostasis of the Trinity is one-third of an infinite God partialism , nor that the Son and the Holy Spirit are beings created by and subordinate to the Father Arianism. Rather, the Trinity is defined as one God in three Persons. Nontrinitarianism Nontrinitarianism or antitrinitarianism refers to theology that rejects the doctrine of the Trinity. Various nontrinitarian views, such as adoptionism or modalism , existed in early Christianity, leading to the disputes about Christology. Christianity, like other religions, has adherents whose beliefs and biblical interpretations vary. Christianity regards the biblical canon , the Old Testament and the New Testament , as the inspired word of God. The traditional view of inspiration is that God worked through human authors so that what they produced was what God wished to communicate. The Greek word referring to inspiration in 2 Timothy 3: Others claim inerrancy for the Bible in its original manuscripts, although none of those are extant. Still others maintain that only a particular translation is inerrant, such as the King James

Version. The books of the Bible accepted by the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant churches vary somewhat, with Jews accepting only the Hebrew Bible as canonical; there is however substantial overlap. These variations are a reflection of the range of traditions , and of the councils that have convened on the subject. Every version of the Old Testament always includes the books of the Tanakh , the canon of the Hebrew Bible. These books appear in the Septuagint , but are regarded by Protestants to be apocryphal. However, they are considered to be important historical documents which help to inform the understanding of words, grammar and syntax used in the historical period of their conception. Modern scholarship has raised many issues with the Bible. Another issue is that several books are considered to be forgeries. The injunction that women "be silent and submissive" in 1 Timothy 2 [83] is thought by many to be a forgery by a follower of Paul, a similar phrase in 1 Corinthians 14, [84] which is thought to be by Paul, appears in different places in different manuscripts and is thought to originally be a margin note by a copyist. A final issue with the Bible is the way in which books were selected for inclusion in the New Testament. Other Gospels have now been recovered, such as those found near Nag Hammadi in , and while some of these texts are quite different from what Christians have been used to, it should be understood that some of this newly recovered Gospel material is quite possibly contemporaneous with, or even earlier than, the New Testament Gospels. The core of the Gospel of Thomas , in particular, may date from as early as AD 50 although some major scholars contest this early dating , [86] and if so would provide an insight into the earliest gospel texts that underlie the canonical Gospels, texts that are mentioned in Luke 1: Scholarship, then, is currently exploring the relationship in the Early Church between mystical speculation and experience on the one hand and the search for church order on the other, by analyzing new-found texts, by subjecting canonical texts to further scrutiny, and by an examination of the passage of New Testament texts to canonical status. Catholic interpretation Main article: Catholic theology of Scripture In antiquity, two schools of exegesis developed in Alexandria and Antioch. Alexandrine interpretation, exemplified by Origen , tended to read Scripture allegorically , while Antiochene interpretation adhered to the literal sense, holding that other meanings called theoria could only be accepted if based on the literal meaning. The spiritual sense is further subdivided into: The allegorical sense, which includes typology. An example would be the parting of the Red Sea being understood as a "type" sign of baptism. The anagogical sense, which applies to eschatology , eternity and the consummation of the world Regarding exegesis , following the rules of sound interpretation, Catholic theology holds: The injunction that all other senses of sacred scripture are based on the literal [92] [93] That the historicity of the Gospels must be absolutely and constantly held [94] That scripture must be read within the "living Tradition of the whole Church" [95] and That "the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome ". Clarity of Scripture Protestant Christians believe that the Bible is a self-sufficient revelation, the final authority on all Christian doctrine, and revealed all truth necessary for salvation. This concept is known as sola scriptura. The significance of the text includes the ensuing use of the text or application. The original passage is seen as having only a single meaning or sense. The moment we neglect this principle we drift out upon a sea of uncertainty and conjecture. Taken together, both define the term Biblical hermeneutics.

Christianity is an Abrahamic monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, also known by Christians as the theinnatdunvilla.com is the world's most populous religion, with over billion followers, or 33% of the global population, comprising a majority of the population in about two-thirds of the countries in the world.

Jesus is the Christ. The word "christ" means anointed one. Jesus is the anointed one from God the Father who came to this world, fulfilled the Old Testament laws and prophecies, died on the cross, and rose from the dead physically. He performed many miracles which were recorded in the Gospels by the eyewitnesses. He is divine in nature as well as human. Thus, He has two natures and is worthy of worship and prayer. Christianity teaches that there is only one God in all existence, that God made the universe, the Earth, and created Adam and Eve. God created man in His image. This does not mean that God has a body of flesh and bones. Because we are made in the image of God, every person is worthy of respect and honor. Furthermore, this means that we did not evolve through random processes from a single-celled organism into rational, emotional beings. God created Adam and Eve and put them in the Garden of Eden and gave them the freedom to choose between right and wrong. They chose to sin. Sin is doing that which is contrary to the nature and will of God. For example, God cannot lie; therefore, lying is sin. The sin of disobeying God that Adam and Eve committed resulted in them being expelled from the Garden of Eden as well as suffering the effects of death. As a result of their sin, their children and all of us inherited a sinful nature. In other words, our offspring are not perfect in nature. They know how to do these things naturally. This shows that we are born in a fallen state. Christianity teaches that God is a Trinity Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, not three Gods, that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead physically, and that all people are under the righteous judgment of God because all people have sinned against God. It teaches that Jesus is the only way to be saved from the coming judgment of God and that salvation is received by faith in the work of Christ on the cross and not by anything that we can do to please God. This means that we are not made right before God by our efforts, sincerity, or works. Instead, we are made right before God by faith in what Christ did on the cross. Christianity further teaches that once a person is "born again" becomes saved that the Holy Spirit lives in that person and the person is changed: This means that God actually lives in the person and the Christian then experiences a true and living relationship with God. Therefore, "What is Christianity?"

Chapter 9 : THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

The world's major religions (Hinduism, New Age Spirituality, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity) are also quite unique in their requirements. Most of the world religions place an individual on their own, striving for spiritual perfection.

You are free to download this article provided it remains intact without alteration. You are also free to transmit this article and quote this article provided that proper citation of authorship is included. Most people in the Western world have so long identified these terms and thought them to be synonymous and equivalent, that it takes a sharp can-opener of rational argument, or the sharper still "word of God" Heb. Many erstwhile Christian thinkers have made the distinction between "religion" and Christianity. In confronting the sixteenth century religionism of Roman Catholicism, Martin Luther explained, "I have often said that to speak and judge rightly in this matter we must carefully distinguish between a pious religious man and a Christian. In his Letters and Papers from Prison he sets up the antinomy between faith and religion and argues for a "nonreligious" or "religionless Christianity. In his voluminous Church Dogmatics, Barth wrote that "the revelation of God is the abolition of religion. It is a concern of It is the attempted replacement of the divine work by a human manufacture. In religion man bolts and bars himself against revelation by providing a substitute, by taking away in advance the very thing which has to be given by God. It is never the truth. It is a complete fiction, which has not only little but no relation to God. No religion can stand before the grace of God as true religion. Faith shatters all religion We can reduce it to a maxim: Never in any way, under any circumstances can we ascend to God, howsoever slightly. For that, at bottom, is what religion is: It has a failed past and a bankrupt future. The church is not in the religion business; it is in the Gospel-proclaiming business. So let that pass. Background of the word "religion" A brief study of the etymology of our English word "religion" will reveal that we might not want to allow the word "religion" to be associated with Christianity. There are several Latin words which may have served as the origin of our English word "religion. It can also convey the meaning of being bound or tied to a set of rules and regulations, to rituals of devotion, to a creedal belief-system, or to a cause, ideology, or routine. Some have suggested that "religion" may be derived from the Latin word *relegere*, which refers to re-reading. There is no doubt that "religion" is often associated with repetitious rites of liturgy and litany, and the reproduction of creedal formulas and expressions. Most etymologists, however, regard the English word "religion" to be derived from the Latin word *religare* which is closely aligned with the root word *religo*. The Latin word *religare*, from which our English word "religion" is most likely derived, meant "to tie back" or "to bind up. To some believing Jews, Jesus explained that "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" John 8: Further explanation of the personification of that "truth" in Himself was then made when Jesus said, "If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed. Jesus did not say, "I came that you might have religion, and practice it more faithfully," or "I came that you might have religion, and adhere to it more committedly," or "I came that you might have religion, and define it more dogmatically," or "I came that you might have religion, and defend it more vehemently," or "I came that you might have religion, and thus behave more morally. The life that He came to bring and express within us and through us is His life. The apostle John wrote that "He that has the Son has life; he that does not have the Son does not have life" I John 5: Biblical usage of the word "religion" A closer look at the biblical usage of the word "religion" will demonstrate that the word is seldom used with any positive implication, but generally has a negative connotation. When Paul traveled to Athens he observed an abundance of idols, even an idol to an "unknown god," lest they might have missed any. Paul stands up and declares, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects" Acts What does Paul mean by referring to their pervasive idolatry as being "religious? Festus used the same Greek word to pejoratively refer to the Jewish religion, when he explained to King Agrippa that the Jews who brought charges against Paul "had some points of disagreement with him about their own religion" Acts In his epistle to the Colossians, Paul was confronting the regional religionism of Asia as well as the Judaizing religionism that constantly followed his ministry. He wanted to show the superiority of the gospel of grace in Jesus Christ over all religion. These are matters which have the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement

and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence" Col. The word translated "religion" is the Greek word *ethelothreskia*, which is a combination of two other Greek words: Paul denies the veracity of such thinking, regarding such as mere "self-made religion," and of no benefit against the selfish patterns of fleshly indulgence. The Greek word that he uses is *threskeia*, meaning "worship or religion. In that case genuine Christian worship transpires as we are receptive to the activity of God and express the worth-ship of His character in our behavior. In light of the predominantly negative inferences of the word "religion" in the New Testament, we should avoid applying this word to Christianity. Christianity and "world religions" Failure to differentiate between Christianity and "religion" has caused many to lump Christianity together as just another "religion" in the study of comparative world religions. Their criteria for the consideration of a "religion" is merely sociological, psychological, creedal, liturgical or organizational, all of which are inadequate to consider the radical uniqueness of Christianity. The story is told of Guatama Buddha, who lived some four hundred years prior to the birth of Jesus Christ. Some of his devotees came to Buddha and asked how they should perpetuate his memory. How shall we memorialize you? It is not me that matters; it is my teaching that should be propagated and adhered to throughout the world. Does that sound like a noble ideal that attempts to avoid ego-centricity? Most of those who called themselves "Christians" today seem to think that Jesus advocated the same thing that Buddha is alleged to have uttered. In fact, what Buddha said is contrary to everything Jesus taught, and everything recorded in the New Testament scriptures. Jesus did not say, "Just remember my teaching. He did not say, "I will show you the way; I will teach you the truth; I will give you the life. The reality of His person is the truth of God. The very personal presence of the risen Lord Jesus is the life of the Living God, the ontological essence of everything He came to bring to this world. A European professor of comparative religions who was himself an agnostic interviewed the former Sadhu one day, with the evident intention of showing him his mistake in renouncing another religion for what he perceived to be the "Christian religion. Singh, "What have you found in the Christian religion that you did not have in your old religion? He went away discomfited but thoughtful. Sundar Singh was right. The religions of the world have some fine teachings, but they lack the person and life of Jesus Christ, the dynamic presence of God in man. A personal friend of mine, Bill Hekman, was once seated on an airplane and struck up a conversation with the gentleman seated next to him. In their conversation the fellow-passenger explained that he was a professor of Islamic Studies. Bill Hekman indicated that he was a Christian and had been a missionary to Irian Jaya for twenty years, and that he was returning to Indonesia to engage in Christian teaching. Their conversation eventually included a discussion of the extent to which the peoples of Indonesia had converted from the predominant religion of Islam to Christianity, and a mutual questioning of whether the Indonesian government statistics of the percentages of Muslims and Christians were accurate. Then the professor of Islamic studies said something very surprising. He indicated that he thought that Indonesia would someday be a primarily Christian nation. Bill, though obviously hopeful of such, was taken aback by such a prediction, and asked him why he thought that this would take place. The professor replied, "Because the Christians have Roh Allah. May his surprising prediction prove true! The ideologies of humanism and communism have also been identified as religions, as well as the individualism of "The American religion. Christianity cannot legitimately be compared to any of these religions, however. Religion and Christianity are as different as night and day, death and life, fiction and truth. To attempt to include Christianity in a course on "comparative world religions" is to compare that which cannot be compared, like comparing apples with oranges. It is one of a kind. Christianity is not the propagation of a philosophy. It is not the performance of religious procedures. It is not the perpetuation of an organizational program. And yes, tragically, you can take Christ out of that misnomer of "Christian religion," and still have the doctrines and the programs and the organizational machinery that masquerade as the "church. On that premise of subjective religious impact being the existential essence of the "Christian religion," they go about "demythologizing" the New Testament scriptures to reduce them to psychological and ethical tenets. If God were to die tonight, it would be "business as usual" for religion tomorrow. It does not require God in Christ for the "Christian religion" to function; just man and money! Genuine Christianity, on the other hand, requires the presence and function of the life and person of the living Lord Jesus. Jesus Christ is not just the historical founder of a "Christian religion;" rather

He is the vital spiritual essence of Christianity which is His dynamic ontological function within receptive humanity. Another hypothetical question might be asked. He stands about Christianity Christian religion as the judge of all it has done in His name. Christianity is not religion! It is so radically different from all religion that it cannot properly be compared with the "world religions. Careful study of the new covenant literature, which we know as the New Testament, evidences the constant exposure of the radical difference between religion and the dynamic life of Jesus Christ in the kingdom of grace. Beginning in the accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus in the Gospels cf. *Jesus Confronts Religion* , it is apparent that Jesus was constantly confronting religion as He proclaimed the kingdom of grace that He came to reveal in Himself. The Pharisees and scribes of Judaism were the religionists who placed themselves in antagonism to all that Jesus did and said. They did not have the spiritual understanding to comprehend what Jesus was proclaiming. Eventually the religious leaders realized that the parables were exposing them, and they began to take measures to silence their nemesis by execution. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke carefully explains that in the earliest history of the church, the initial Christian leaders were progressively made aware of the radical difference between the Christian gospel and all religion. Christianity had to be unencumbered and unhindered from any identification with Judaic religion. In his epistle to the Romans, Paul explains that righteousness is not in religious rites or the Law, but in Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.