

RELIGIONS IN GENERAL COMPARED TO TRUE CHRISTIANITY

All religions in the world believe there is a god or gods. The most popular religions claim to have the same god. The major difference between these various religions is the manner of approach to their god and just how they worship and serve their god. The differences are so varied that most people are confused over just which religion is the right one.

Many folks actually believe that it really doesn't matter. That all religions are acceptable to the one true God. In their opinion God loves everyone and as long as they believe in Him, worship and serve Him in some manner they will be accepted by Him.

There is in fact only One True God and He does love everyone. The Bible tells us "For God so loved the world (*the human race*) that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting (*eternal*) life." ⁽¹⁾ The Bible also tells us that "Jesus Christ (*God's son*) died for the sin of the whole world." ⁽²⁾

The one true God also makes it clear in His Word (*the Bible*) and by His creation of this universe that there is only one way to approach Him and to be accepted by Him.

In fact, His word makes it clear and gives many examples that His way is the only way. It is for this very reason that He created man with a God consciousness and has sent His Holy Spirit into this world to make men aware of His presence so that they can *know Him* and enjoy a *relationship with Him*.

In the first place, the primary reason we are here on this earth is to come to know God, enjoy fellowship and have a relationship with Him. Our brief stay on this globe is the time frame with which God has provided us in order for us to choose for ourselves if we want to spend eternity with Him or not.

Our *ETERNAL* destiny depends on this choice. Just like death, religion is universal and effects all of us. Therefore we must make this life or death choice our focus while we have the opportunity. This is the most important decision we will ever make.

Generally speaking, all of us from childhood are brought up with some religious ideas about God and how we are to please Him. We could have been raised with the idea that there is no God at all. In order for us to know for certain God must somehow reveal Himself to us and He will. We must know for sure for we can be deceived.

Sometime in our lives sooner or later God will provide the opportunity for us to make our own decisions about Him. Does He exist? Is there only one God? Can we know Him? What does He expect from us? How do we serve or please Him?

If we are sincerely concerned about our future here and in eternity we must know and be satisfied that our answers to these and many other questions are the *truth*.

Having said this, I would like to focus our attention on one of these many religions, Christianity. Like all religions, Christianity has its many rules, regulations, means and methods, and confusion in approaching God.

The major difference about Christianity and other religions is that Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God and the only way to God. Christians believe that the only religious leader in this world who died for the sin of mankind and was resurrected from the dead by God His father is Jesus Christ.

Most all religions have a founder, a leader, and some man who claimed to know the way to God. From what I understand we can go see anyone of their burial places, their graves or tombs are there for our viewing.

The tomb where Jesus Christ was buried for three days is still there for our viewing but He is not there. His tomb is empty. He was resurrected and can now come into the life of anyone who will receive Him. *“as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”* ⁽³⁾

A true Christian experiences the living resurrected Christ in his very being and can know with absolute assurance that God lives within his spirit. God’s spirit bears witness with man’s spirit that he is a born again child of God.⁽⁴⁾

God tells us in His word in both the Old and New Testaments *“For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk in them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”* ⁽⁵⁾

God Himself bears witness to those who believe His word and put their complete trust in Him. All true Christian believers have His internal witness that they have eternal, everlasting life and that they will never die. *“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know** that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”*⁽⁶⁾

Jesus spoke to Martha as she stood before her brother Lazarus tomb, *“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”* ⁽⁷⁾

Jesus also spoke to His disciples as He was about to leave them and go to be with His father, *“I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you **know** Him, for He dwells with you and will be **in you**. I will not leave you orphans; **I will come to you**. ”* A little while longer and the

world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. *Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will **know** that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.* He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and *I will love him and **manifest Myself to him.***" ⁽⁸⁾

Jesus also says today to any and everyone who will hear and receive His message, "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one **knows** the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone **know** the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him. Come to Me*, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and *I will give you rest.* Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For *My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*" ⁽⁹⁾

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for *there is no other name* under heaven given among men *by which we must be saved.*" ⁽¹⁰⁾

Notes: All italics, underlines and other emphasis are mine.
Most all scriptures are from the NKJ version.

References: (1) St John 3:16 (2) 1 John 2:2 (3) St John 1:12 (4) Romans 8:16 (5) 2 Corinthians 6:16 (6) 1 John 5:11-13 (7) St John 11:25-26 (8) St John 14:16-21 (9) Matthew 11:27-30 (10) Acts 4:12