

HINDUISM

Christianity and World Religions - Part 2 of 6

BELIEFS OF HINDUISM.

- ONE GOD NAMED BRAHMAN
- IGNORANCE IS OUR PROBLEM
- OUR SOUL IS DIVINE
- SALVATION IS ACHIEVED THROUGH:
DHARMA/GOOD DEEDS
SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE
PERFECTION IN THIS LIFE

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HINDUISM & CHRISTIANITY

1. OUR VIEW OF GOD.

Hinduism: God is in everything.

Christianity: God is distinct from Creation.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1 (KJV)

Hinduism: God is impersonal.

Christianity: A relationship with God is intensely personal.

Jesus: **“So when you pray, you should pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven...’”**

Matthew 6:9 (NCV)

2. OUR VIEW OF THE SOUL.

Hinduism: The soul is part of the divine.

Christianity: The soul is created and distinct from God.

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Genesis 2:7 (KJV)

3. OUR VIEW OF LIFE.

Hinduism: A person dies and is reborn on an endless cycle.

Christianity: Life is not cyclical, but linear.

“And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment.”

Hebrews 9:27 (NLT)

4. OUR VIEW OF LIFE’S STRUGGLES.

HINDUISM: The answer is found within ourselves.

CHRISTIANITY: The answer is found in Christ’s power.

“But you are not ruled by your sinful selves. You are ruled by the Spirit, if that Spirit of God really lives in you. But the person who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ. Your body will always be dead because of sin. But if Christ is in you, then the Spirit gives you life, because Christ made you right with God.”

Romans 8:9-10 (NCV)

5. OUR VIEW OF THE VALUE OF GOOD DEEDS.

Hinduism: Dharma (duty) helps you toward salvation.

Christianity: Good works are important but not necessary for salvation.

“I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NCV)

BRIDGE BUILDING: KARMA

Hinduism: Good and bad karma will come back on us.

Christianity: We reap what we sow.

“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.”

Galatians 6:7-8

Hinduism: Bad karma is paid for through reincarnation.

Christianity: God’s son, Jesus Christ, paid for my bad karma.

“For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men’s sins against them but blotting them out...for God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God’s goodness into us!”

2 Corinthians 5:19, 21 (LB)