

Christian Apologetics

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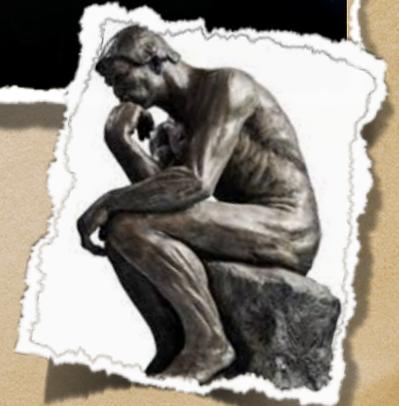
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Lesson 1: Overview

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Lesson II: Christianity vs. World Religions



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Are the Claims of Christianity 'narrow-minded' and 'arrogant'?



“How could there be just one true faith? It’s arrogant to say that *your* religion is superior and try to convert everyone else to it. Surely all religions are equally good and valid for meeting the needs of their particular followers.”

Our culture tells us that there are
many ways to heaven.

“One of the mistakes that human beings make is believing that there is only one way to live and that we don't accept that there are diverse ways of being in the world. That there are millions of ways to be a human being and many paths to what you call God...” ~Oprah Winfrey

Same Deity, Different Name?



Hinduism

God

- ◆ Conflicting views on God:
 - ◆ Monotheism- There is one supreme deity known as Brahman
 - ◆ Pantheism- God is everything and everything is God
 - ◆ Polytheism- They worship multiple deities

Hinduism

Jesus Christ

- ◆ Jesus is not God but just one of many incarnations, or avatars, of Vishnu.

Sin

- ◆ There is no sin against a Holy God
 - ◆ Acts of wrongdoing are not done against any God but are mainly a result of ignorance

Hinduism

Salvation

- ◆ Can be attained in one of three ways:

1. Knowledge

2. Devotion

3. Works

Buddhism

God

- ◆ They deny the existence of a personal God or say that God's existence is irrelevant

Jesus Christ

- ◆ They identify Christ as a good teacher but less important than Buddha
- ◆ Jesus is not the Son of God

Buddhism

Sin

- ◆ They do not believe in the idea of original sin, or sin at all

Salvation

- ◆ There is no need for salvation from sin and its consequences

Judaism

God

- ◆ Jews believe there is only one God

Jesus Christ

- ◆ Some Jews may accept Jesus as a good teacher or even a prophet, but they deny Him as Messiah

Judaism

Sin

- ◆ Judaism holds no concept of original sin

Judaism

Salvation

- ◆ Judaism believes that atonement for sin is achieved by works of righteousness

1. Repentance
2. Prayer
3. Performing good deeds

Islam

God

- ◆ Allah is the only true God

Jesus Christ

- ◆ Jesus was a prophet below Mohammed in importance
- ◆ Jesus Christ is not the Son of God
- ◆ Jesus Christ was not Crucified
- ◆ Jesus did not raise from the dead

Islam

Sin

- ◆ Human beings are born sinless and are good by nature
- ◆ Since they don't have a fallen nature, they don't think they need a savior

Salvation

- ◆ On the Day of Judgment the good and evil deeds of men will be placed on a 'scale'
- ◆ The Koran tells them that the good deeds they do will cancel out bad deeds (Sura 11:114)

Baha'i

God

- ◆ There is only one God.
- ◆ God, Allah, Yahweh, and Brahma all refer to the One Divine Being

Jesus Christ

- ◆ Jesus was just one of God 'Messengers' along with Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Muhammad, and so forth

Baha'i

Sin

- ◆ They do not "accept the concept of "original sin"
- ◆ They deny the existence of Satan, a devil, or an "evil force."

Salvation

- ◆ The only salvation in any age, Bahá'ís believe, is to turn again towards God, to accept his Manifestation for that day, and to follow his teachings.

Same Deity, Different Name?

World Religions Comparison Chart

God	Hindus: Believe in one main God; but millions of lesser gods.	Jews ,Christians and Muslims: Believe that there is only one God.	Baha'i: Believe that the God from each religion, (God, Allah, Yahweh, and Brahma) all refer to the One Divine Being.
Jesus	Christians: Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God	Muslims: Believe that Jesus Christ was only a man. He was a prophet but less important than Muhammad. Christ did not die for man's sins.	Baha'i: Believe that Jesus was just one of God's 'Messengers' along with Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Muhammad, and so forth.
Sin	Christians: Believe in "original sin", that everyone is born in sin and is a sinner before a Holy God, in need of a Savior.	Buddhists: Buddhists do not believe in the idea of original sin, or sin at all "Buddhists believe that sin is the lust that arises in one's life..." No need for a Savior.	Baha'i: Do not accept the concept of "original sin" or any related doctrine which considers that people are basically evil or have intrinsically evil elements in their nature. No need for a Savior.



The Law of Non-Contradiction



What Makes Christianity Different from other Religions?

- John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
- John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

- Buddha-



- Confucius-



- Muhammad-



- Buddha-



- Confucius-





- Muhammad-

Did Jesus believe He was God or equal with God?

To answer this question we're going to look at three things:

1. What Jesus said and taught
2. The reaction of the Jewish leaders
3. Who Jesus' Disciples & Apostles thought he was

Did Jesus believe He was God or equal with God?

1. What Jesus said and taught

- Matthew 5:21, 27, 33, 38, 43

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago,
‘Do not murder, ...²⁷...’ ‘Do not commit adultery.’ ...³³... ‘Do
not break your oath, ...³⁸...’ ‘Eye for eye, tooth for
tooth.’ ...⁴³... ‘Love your neighbor and hate your
enemy.’ ... But I tell you...

Did Jesus believe He was God or equal with God?

1. What Jesus said and taught

- Mark 2:5-7 'to the paralytic He said...your sins are forgiven...'
- John 10:30 'I and the Father are one'
- John 14:9 '...he who has seen Me has seen the Father...'

Did Jesus believe He was God or
equal with God?

1. What Jesus said and taught

- John 8:58 '...before Abraham was born, I am' (Exodus 3:13-15)

Did Jesus believe He was God or equal with God?

2. The reaction of the Jewish leaders

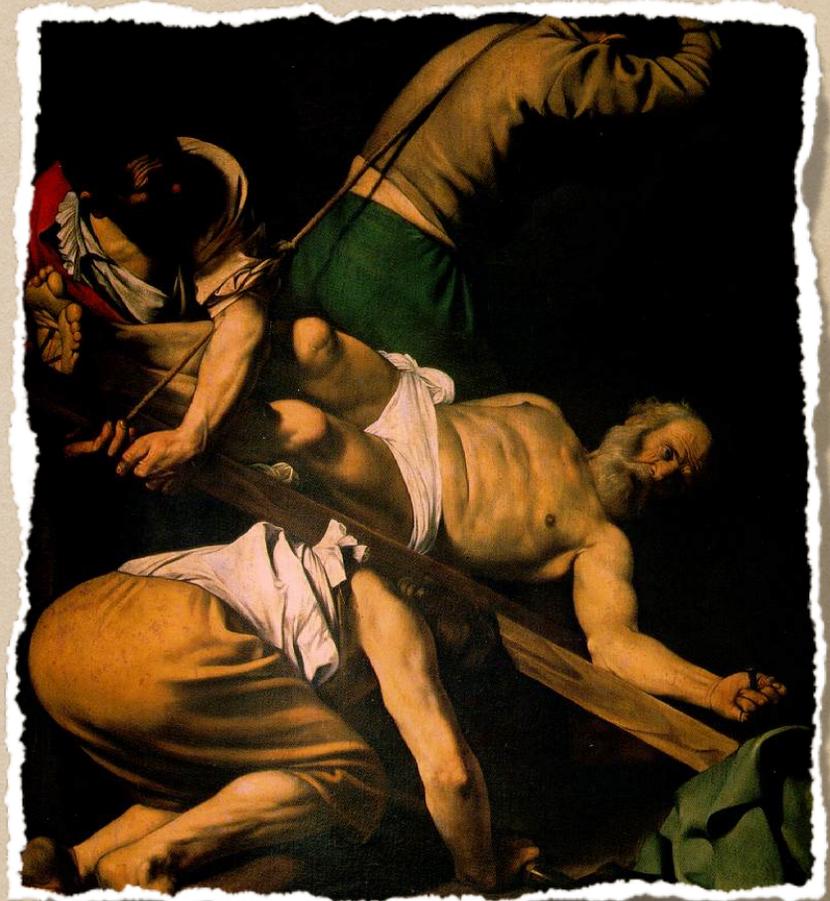
- Mark 14:61-64

- Luke 5:18-21

- John 10:30-33

Peter (Matthew 16:15-16)

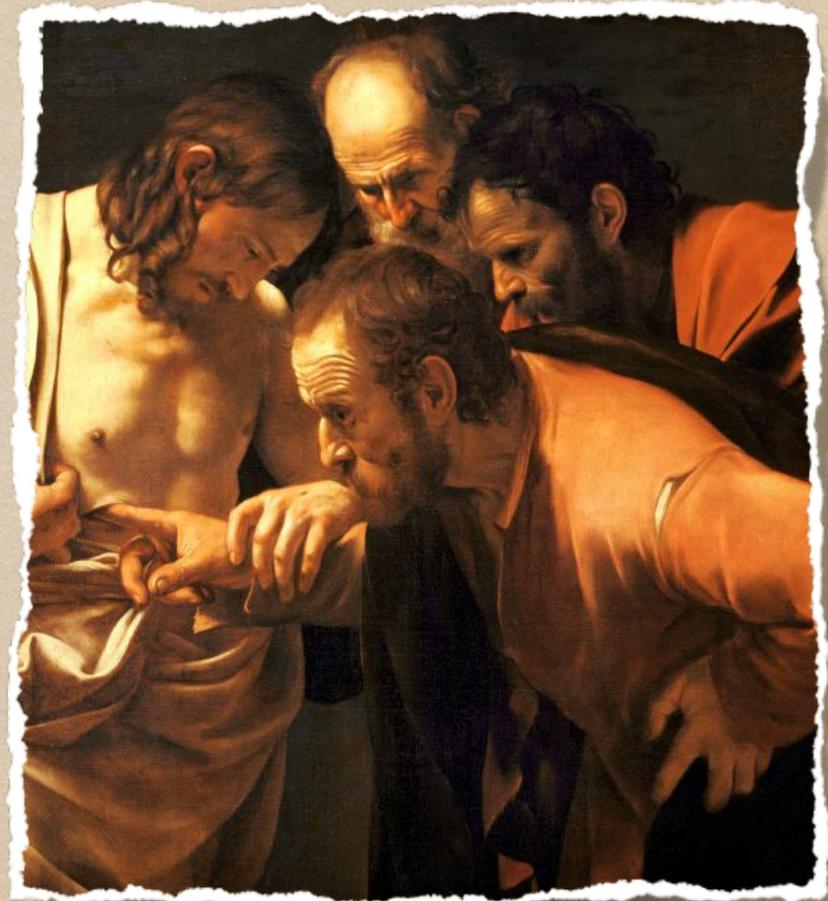
¹⁵[Jesus] said to them,
"But who do you say
that I am?" ¹⁶Simon
Peter answered, "You
are the Christ, the Son
of the living God."



Thomas (John 20:27-28)

²⁷Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

²⁸Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God'!'



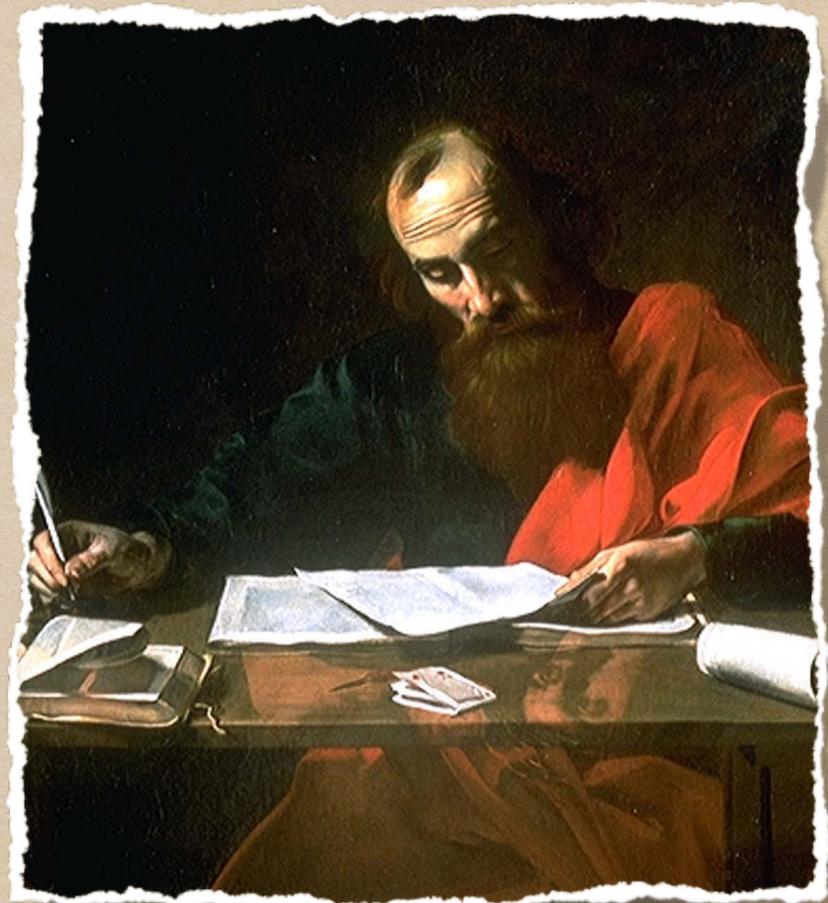
John (John 1:1-3, 14)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and **the Word was God**. 2 He was with God in the Beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... 14 The **word became flesh** and made his dwelling among us.



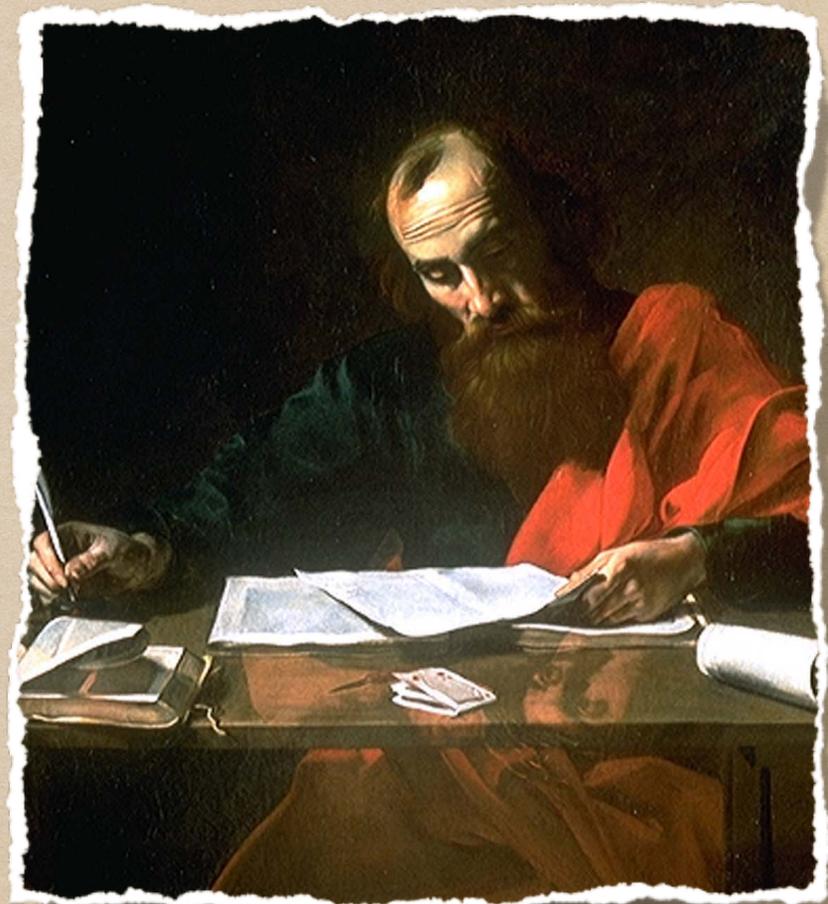
Paul (Colossians 1:15-17)

¹⁵He [Jesus] is the
image of the invisible
God, the first born of all creation. ¹⁶For
by Him all things were
created: things in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible, whether thrones or
powers or rulers or authorities; all things
were created by Him and for Him. ¹⁷He is
before all things, and in Him all things hold
together.



Paul (Philippians 2:5-8)

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross!



Did Jesus believe He was God or equal with God?

Overview of Who Jesus' Disciples & Apostles thought he was

- Peter "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Thomas "My Lord and my God'!"
- John "the Word was God..."
- Paul "Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God"

Jesus IS the ONLY Way to Heaven

Jesus IS the ONLY Way to Heaven

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

1. We can't 'earn our way into heaven

Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.



2. Each of us have failed to meet God's standard.

- Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
- Romans 3:10 "As it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;"
- Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."



3. Through him our sins are forgiven

- Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Romans 10:9-10 “That 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; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

4. Through Him we receive eternal life

- Romans 10:13 “For ‘Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

What makes Christianity different from other religions?



No other religious leader rose from the dead!