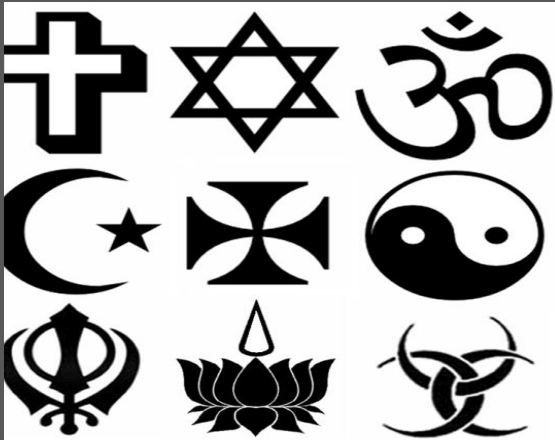


## Why are there so many religions if they are all fake?



**BY: DAVID HALSEY**

**So what is "Religion" anyway?**

**Great Question!**

According to the dictionary, it is *"The expression of man's belief in and reverence for a superhuman power recognized as the creator and governor of the universe."*

Another definition is *"a specific fundamental set of beliefs and practices generally agreed upon by a number of persons or sects."*

This actual question was posed by a middle-school son of a very close friend of mine, which prompted this article. What a great way to frame the question. Let's explore it together.

The **major religions** of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, **all start with the concept of God as described in the Old Testament.** Other Eastern Religions are more philosophical in nature and speak to a path of enlightenment and/or a life force in the universe.

**Everyone who is part of a religion believes they are right.** They all have a founder and a philosophy. Science and Darwinism can also be forms of religion when they are used to serve as the foundation of your beliefs of the origin and purpose of man in the universe.

**Don't all religions have good truths and principles we should follow?** Absolutely, but **just because something has elements of truth within it, that doesn't mean it is the absolute truth.** A religion or philosophy that holds many truths can also contain false teachings.

In summary, there can only be one truth.

## So how do we know Christianity is the one true religion?

The answer is.....**JESUS**

- a. He is the only person who claimed to be God, and the Son of God.
- b. He is the only person who backed up his claims by forgiving sins, defying the laws of physics, performing miracles, controlling the weather, and raising the dead.
- c. Jesus himself rose from the dead – 500 men (probably up to 2,000 including women and children) saw Jesus after he died.
- d. Every other religious leader was just a human, who lived and then died.
- e. Jesus fulfilled over 100 prophecies from the Old Testament which were written hundreds of years before he was born, many of them very specific and well defined.
- f. The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus stands up to the test of scrutiny and is backed up by historical, archaeological, biblical, and eyewitness evidence.

### The other religions have a different view:

- Judaism had a different interpretation that the Messiah (“Savior”) would come back as a conquering king and establish his kingdom on earth. They are not convinced Jesus was the Messiah and are still waiting for his return.
- Islam rejects Jesus as God himself and the Son of God. They consider him a wise and respected prophet. They also claim to believe in the God of the Old Testament but also reject and contradict many aspects of the Old Testament at the same time.
- Eastern Religion seeks a path of enlightenment through living a spiritual life, seeking wisdom, and getting better and better in each life time until you become your highest self, or own God.





**Deeds versus Love - All other religions depend on personal ability and deeds to reach heaven. Christianity is the only religion that is free** for those that accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. We have the true God living within us which is evidenced by the overwhelming care that we show for the poor and needy around the world.

**Christianity is attacked more than any other religion** – All other religions seem to be protected by political correctness. The bible warns us that the darkness is offended by the light, and we clearly see that happening in the world. Imagine if Ron Howard made a movie like the DeVinci Code but based it on a conspiracy about the life of Mohammed. The result would be large scale riots and killings. Jesus knew that we would be attacked, persecuted, and even killed, but not to retaliate with violence in his name. The fact that Christians are provoked more and the way they respond sets them apart from other religions.



### IN SUMMARY:

The ultimate difference is that Jesus paid the price for our sins! He's the only one that could. God is a holy and righteous God. He created physical laws for the universe but also spiritual laws, one of them being the penalty for sin = physical/spiritual death. Jesus came from heaven to live as a perfect man, blameless and without sin to be a sacrifice for all mankind. He allowed his blood to be shed as a sacrifice to pay the debt to God for every human being. Being pure and sinless, he was the only one capable of paying this debt for all humanity. He could have chosen to stay in heaven, but that's not what he did. He loved us enough to do what he did out of his own free will.

If we try to get into heaven by being good enough we will all fall short because we are not perfect. Living without sin is impossible and according to God's law, one little sin is enough to keep us out. When we repent and ask for forgiveness, he does that for us. We accept his free gift of salvation and are made righteous by his goodness, not ours. His shed blood cleanses us of all unrighteousness and purifies us for heaven. Accepting Jesus as Savior is the only way your sins can be washed away. All we have to do is accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior and invite him to live in our heart. It changes everything!

We should also pray, lead by example, and actively engage with people that have not heard the good news of Jesus. It is God's will that nobody should perish, but Jesus also told us that the path to salvation is narrow and the path to destruction is wide. It is not our job to judge the salvation of another person or religion, but we can have confidence that we are living in truth and worshipping the one true God.



**You can start right now with this prayer of salvation:**

*"God, I know I am a sinner and have been separated from you. I desire to be who you want me to be. Forgive my sins and come into my life and save me. Thank you for sending your son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for me. I accept your gift and receive you into my heart right now."*

**"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." – Matthew 7:7**

**"...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." – Luke 12:48**

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Ask about my other articles, including:

["Am I stupid to believe in God?"](#)

["Am I crazy to be a Christian?"](#)

**I didn't make all this up. References I used include:**

"Case for Christ", by Lee Strobel

"Top Ten Proofs – Christianity: Only True Religion", Bob Dutko  
The NIV Study Bible