

## Comparison of World Religions<sup>3</sup>

This chart is adapted from Kenneth Boa: Cults, World Religions and the Occult

<b>Christian Doctrine</b>	<b>Hinduism</b>	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Islam</b>	<b>Judaism</b>
<b>Jesus Christ</b> John 1:1-3, 14; 8:58; Col. 1:16-20	Without recognition of any kind given to Christ.	Without recognition of any kind given to Christ.	Jesus Christ is nothing more than a prophet of god.	Rabbinic teaching holds that there must be two Messiahs: Son of Joseph, who would die, and Son of David, who would establish the kingdom on earth.
<b>Tri-Unity</b> Luke 3:21-22; 1 Peter 1:2; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26	God is an "it" in Philosophical Hinduism, and in Popular Hinduism there are great multitudes of gods. In a sense: man is god.	Without recognition of the Tri-Unity. Most Buddhist sects are polytheistic, pantheistic or atheistic.	There is only one god and that is Allah.	There is only one God and that is Yahweh.
<b>Everyone has an eternal spirit.</b> Matt. 25:46; Dan. 12:2; Eccl. 2:7; Rev. 20:11-15	Yes, and it continues through many incarnations.	Guatama, founder of Buddhism, claimed that men have no souls.	Yes	Yes
<b>Born a Lost Soul</b> Ps. 51:5; James 1:15; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:21-22	Without recognition of sin and moral guilt. Sin is an illusion.	Guatama claimed that men do not have souls.	No	Judaism rejects the doctrine of original sin, saying that sin is an act, not a state.
<b>Salvation</b> John 3:14-17; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3: 21-30; 10:4, 9-10; Gal. 2:16	Hinduism is a works system. Forgiveness of sin does not fit into the picture of karma (cause and effect). Each person has many lives in which to reach salvation.	Theravada Buddhism: salvation by self-effort. Mahayana Buddhism: salvation of one dependent on the grace of others.	After the resurrection, each man's deeds will be weighed to determine his destiny - heaven or hell.	Man does not need redemption. Repentance (turning back to God) is all that is needed when one fails to live according to the law.
<b>Sacred Books (Authority)</b> The Holy Bible	Smriti-revealed script. Smriti-tradition. These groups of books contain many contradictions.	Buddhist scriptures and sayings attributed to Guatama were written about four centuries after his death, and there is no way to be certain they are really his words.	Koran - most important, Tauret, Pentateuch of Moses, Zabur (Psalms of David), Injil (Evangel of Jesus)	The Torah, The Old Testament, The Talmud
<b>Suggested approaches for presenting the Christian faith.</b>	Address the Hindu argument that all religions are the same. Emphasize the unique claims of Jesus. No other religion offers a real solution to the problem of sin. Books of the Bible are harmonious; Hindu scriptures contradict one another. Man is born as a lost human headed for hell because he inherited the sin of Adam.	Give a positive and clear exposition of the claims of Christ and His victory over sin and death. Christ offers salvation; Buddhism does not. Each person must work out his own salvation. Adjust and accommodate for the manner in which Buddhism has become embedded in the culture. Make a strong case for the Bible - archaeology, history and prophecy.	Christians must focus on the problem of sin, contrasting what God of the Bible has done about it, with what Allah has not done. Ask questions to determine views. Muslims have no personal relationship with God. Focus on the true deity of Jesus Christ, the lost nature of man, and the salvation offered by Jesus. Point out the error of works righteousness.	Original Christians were all Jews. <b>NOTE</b> that a Jew does not have to give up his Jewishness to become a Christian. Christianity is not a Gentile religion. NT was written by Jews (except Luke) and Jesus was a Jew. Emphasize Isaiah 53 as prophetic of Jesus' coming.

## Cults and the Occult<sup>4</sup>

Many times people are confused by the difference between a cult and the occult. This chart will make some of those distinctions a little more clear. There are over 5,000 cults in the U.S. While the specifics for each cult differ, the underlying concepts are the same. If you will learn the biblical concepts in each of these areas, you will be able to defend the Scriptures against these attacks. You will then be able to provide answers to hurting people in need of the true Savior.

<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Mormonism</b>	<b>Jehovah's Witnesses</b>	<b>Scientology<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Wicca<sup>6</sup></b>
<b>God</b>	Once a man as we are now. He is now an exalted man. Literally our heavenly father. He and his many wives have sex to produce spirit babies that eventually become the human race.	One person god, called Jehovah. There is no other name for god. Jesus is not God, he is the first thing that Jehovah created.	Does not define god or supreme being, but rejects the biblical God. Everyone is a "thetan," an immortal spirit with unlimited powers over its own universe, but all are not aware of this.	The supreme being is called the goddess, sometimes the goddess and god, or goddess and horned god. The goddess can be a symbol, the impersonal force in everything, or a personal being.
<b>Jesus Christ</b>  John 1:1-3, 14; 8:58 Colossians 1:16-20	Jesus Christ, spirit brother of Lucifer, received a body of flesh and bone and is now elevated to deity. He is referred to as our "elder brother," one of many gods.	Jesus is a god, not God the Son. He is represented as the first creation of Jehovah. Before his incarnation he was Michael, captain of Jehovah's hosts.	Jesus is rarely mentioned. Jesus was not Creator, nor was he an "operating thetan" (in control of supernatural powers, cleared from mental defects). Jesus did not die for our sins.	Jesus is either rejected altogether or sometimes considered a spiritual teacher who taught love and compassion.
<b>Tri-Unity</b>  Luke 3:21-22; 1 Peter 1:2 Matthew 28:19 John 15:26	Mormon theology is henotheistic. It exalts one god (the father -god) above the other gods in the universe. The Holy Spirit is a spiritual impersonal "force."	The doctrine of the Tri-Unity is denied emphatically. The deity of the Holy Spirit is denied—he is likened to a radar beam.	The doctrine of the Tri-Unity is denied. The Holy Spirit is not part of their belief.	The doctrine of the Tri-Unity is denied. The Holy Spirit is not part of their belief. Some Wiccans may refer to "Spirit" as a kind of divine energy.
<b>Everyone has an eternal spirit</b>  Matthew 25:46 Daniel 12:2 Ecclesiastes 12:7 Revelation 20:11-15	Yes	They argue for painless extinction, indicating man does not possess an immortal soul, just a combination of breath and flesh. That is, unless you become part of the Organization or the 144,000.	There are no particular human incarnations of god as the universal life force (Theta) is inherent in all. All humans are immortal spiritual beings (thetans), capable of realizing a nearly godlike state.	Values are part of our social paradigms, as well. Tolerance, freedom of expression, inclusion, and refusal to claim to have the answers are the only universal values.

<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Mormonism</b>	<b>Jehovah's Witnesses</b>	<b>Scientology<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Wicca<sup>8</sup></b>
<b>Born a Lost Soul</b> Psalm 51:5 James 1:15 Romans 5:12-21 I Corinthians 15: 21-22	Mormons deny the doctrine of original sin and teach that the fall of man was a good and necessary thing. There is no imputed sin nature.	Adam's sin imputed to mankind, as federal head of the race. However, a sin nature apparently not inherited by the race.	No sin and no need to repent. Hell is a myth. People who get clear of "engrams" become operating "thetans."	Definitely not.
<b>Suggested Approaches For Presenting The Christian Faith</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confront with the "pillars" of Mormonism: god, works, salvation.</li> <li>2. Compare beliefs with Bible.</li> <li>3. The archaeology of the New World refutes the Book of Mormon.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Present a clear biblical case of Christ's and Holy Spirit's deity.</li> <li>2. Present the case of the Tri-Unity.</li> <li>3. Challenge them to look at the whole of Scripture.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask why they think the world is in such a mess?</li> <li>2. Ask how they know for sure that what they believe is true.</li> <li>3. Present the gospel and the gift of eternal life.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wicca is an occultic "nature religion." Explain the origins of this belief.</li> <li>2. Ask them how they know that there is no God who loves.</li> <li>3. Share with them the gospel of eternal life.</li> </ol>
<b>Other Beliefs</b>	No alcohol, tobacco, coffee or tea. Baptism on behalf of the dead. Two year missionary commitment encouraged. Extensive social network.	Known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Meet in Kingdom Halls. Do not observe holidays or birthdays. Forbidden to vote, salute flag, work in military.	Highly controversial. Publication of Dianetics. Organizations related: Narconan, Criminon, Way to Happiness Foundation, WISE, Applied Scholastics.	Wiccans practice divination and spell-casting, with most rituals performed in a circle. Many Wiccans are part of a coven. Extremely occultic.