

Apologetics 8

Comparing Religious Views

Don't all religions teach the same thing?

No. People who say this usually refer to the ethical codes that go along with religions. While most religions have similar ethics, they teach very different things about God, the world, people, and the afterlife, as we will see in this study.

Aren't all religions basically the same?

No. All religions are not the same because they all teach different things. They are not all roads to one common place.

Can one religion be true for you and another religion be true for me?

No. This is because religion has to do with ultimate reality, and that reality is outside of ourselves. Ultimate truth is not a matter of personal taste, like what a person likes on their pizza. A religion is either true or false depending on how it corresponds to reality, not our personal opinions.

Can we know which religion is correct?

Yes. We can evaluate religions the same way we evaluate everything else: by how it corresponds to reality.

How can we know which religion is correct?

We can know which religion is correct by evaluating each one in light of what we know about reality. Any religion that is true will never conflict with established fact or be logically self-contradictory.

Two Ways to Evaluate Religions

- correspondence to reality and internal consistency
- Irreducible Complexity: If one part of the core of a religion breaks down, then the whole thing breaks down.

Five Questions

- 1. Who am I?
- 2. Where did I come from?
- 3. Who is God?
- 4. What is wrong?
- 5. What is the answer to what is wrong?

Jehovah's Witness

- **Founder:** Charles Taze Russel, 1872
- **Holy Book:** New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures- a deviation from the original Greek and Hebrew texts.
- Because Jehovah's Witnesses use a “translation” of the Bible, many of their doctrines sound Christian. However, they differ on some very important points.

Jehovah's Witness

- **1. Who am I?** Humans are the creation of God. We are morally responsible to God.
- **2. Where did I come from?** God created humans.
- **3. Who is God?** He is Jehovah- the God of the Old Testament. They differ with Christians by saying that Jesus Christ is not God, but is created.

Jehovah's Witness

- **4. What is wrong?** Sin- rebellion against Jehovah.
- **5. What is the answer to what is wrong?**

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, is the only means God uses to provide salvation. This salvation comes by working for the organization, expounding the doctrine of the organization. Only 144,000 will be taken to heaven- the rest have to live on earth.[1]

[1]Carlson, Ron, and Ed Decker. Fast Facts on False Teaching. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1994., p. 126

Are Jehovah's Witnesses the one true religion?

- False Prophecies of the Return of Christ by Jehovah's Witness Presidents:
 - 1874 (Russell)
 - 1914 (Russell)
 - 1925-1929 (Joseph Franklin Rutherford)
 - 1975 (Nathan Knorr)