

# Are All Religions Basically the Same?

*"11 Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. 12 I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:11-12 NLT*

## 1. Comparing Religions Show All Religions Are Not Basically the Same.

Comparing the world religions shows a big difference...

1. **A Different View of the Nature of GOD.** (God's attributes; the Trinity)
2. **A Different View of the Identity of CHRIST.** (Human only-teacher/prophet; God in human flesh-incarnation; docetism - Jesus only appeared to be human).
3. **A Different View of the means of SALVATION.** (Salvation is not the ultimate focus for most world religions. Confucianism - how to live in peace with others; Buddhism - how to respond to suffering; Mormonism - human evolution into becoming a God; Islam-world domination; etc.)

Quote:

In May 1998, Jonathan Miller, a reporter with ABC News, interviewed bin Laden, who believed he was a servant of Allah and that his primary mission was to spread the religion of light by violence.

*"I am one of the servants of Allah. We do our duty of fighting for the sake of the religion of Allah. It is also our duty to send a call to all the people of the world to enjoy this great light and to embrace Islam and experience the happiness in Islam. Our primary mission is nothing but the furthering of this religion..."*

## 2. Galatians 1:6-12 - Paul Indicates That All Religions Are Not Basically the Same.

**The uniqueness of the gospel of Christ.**

- The Galatians were fooled and swayed into a **DIFFERENT** gospel (vs. 6-7).
- There is **ONLY** one true Gospel, and judgment awaits those who distort it (vs. 8-10).
- Paul's gospel was received by direct divine **REVELATION** (vs. 11-12).
- The gospel of Christ **TRANSFORMED** Paul's life (vs. 13-24).

### Central Lesson

**Experiencing God's love and forgiveness is not about what we DO but about accepting & trusting in what Christ has DONE for us on the cross.**

## 3. Illustration - "Do Versus Done" Shows the Primary Reason WHY All Religions Are Not Basically the Same.

All religions of the world can be placed in one of two categories - **Do** versus **DONE**.

DO	DONE
WORKS	GRACE
REWARD	GIFT
RELIGION	RELATIONSHIP

- Check List:
- ✓ prayers
  - ✓ deeds
  - ✓ giving
  - ✓ serving
  - ✓ ceremonies



### DO

The majority of the world religions emphasize that we must "do" something to earn or work our way into heaven (or it's equivalent). Each group has their own unique list. We never know if we have done enough. There is no assurance of salvation.

### DONE

Jesus has "done" the work of salvation for us. He paid the price by His death on the cross (1 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 1:7). God offers us salvation as a "free gift" to be received, not achieved (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:20-28; 5:1; Titus 3:5-7; Gal. 2:16). Because Jesus did the work for us, we don't have to worry if we have done enough and we can have assurance of our salvation.

### Central Lesson

**Experiencing God's love and forgiveness is not about what we DO but about accepting & trusting in what Christ has DONE for us on the cross.**

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.