

Teachings of True Christianity

1. Jesus is the Son of God
2. Jesus was born as a human being
3. Jesus is alive now as he was resurrected from the dead and made immortal
4. Jesus currently runs world affairs
5. Jesus acts as a mediator and high priest right now
6. Believers can get assistance from him through prayer
7. Jesus will return as King of Israel & the World
8. He will judge the world.
9. He will build a temple at Jerusalem
10. All men are born mortal and with a bias to sin (selfish desires)
11. All men (apart from Christ) have been sinners and need forgiveness – in their unbelieving state they are alienated from God.
12. Salvation is by grace through faith. Salvation is not by works alone.
13. Key Commandments – Love God and love Neighbour
 - Love enemies
 - Do good works so that they cannot be seen
 - Cherish wives
 - Care for servants/employees
 - Accept persecution and suffering
 - Aim for humility
 - Maintain unity
 - Preach the gospel
14. Doctrines focus on the heart rather than externals
15. Prayer shows faith in God. Prayers will be answered by God.
16. Believers are required to meet regularly and share bread and wine.

*Verifiable History & Archaeology

* Testable Prophecy

Other Important Beliefs

1. Man is mortal. When he dies he decays. He has no thoughts. There is no immortal soul. Mankind was made lower than the angels.
2. Hell is only the grave.
3. Resurrection is a bodily one, Essentially, men will be recreated.
4. Mankind is predestined but only to the extent that there would be a group of people who are called the sons of God. It is God's plan to have a divine family.

The Six Articles of Faith in Islam

Muslim doctrine is often summarized in "**Six Articles of Faith**." According to this list, to be a Muslim one must believe in:

1. **One God;**

the all-powerful Creator of a perfect, ordered universe. He is transcendent and not a part of his creation. the Sole, the Indivisible. He is the Rubb who accomplishes all affairs, Allah is the Omnipotent and the Omniscient. His knowledge comprehends in perfect manner all things, hidden or manifest. He is greater than can be encompassed by the knowledge of His creatures. He knows everything, and He is aware of all that take place in the earth or in the heavens.

Although the God of Islam has revealed his will through the prophets, his actual nature remains ultimately **unknowable**.

Allah is a **God of justice**, who expects righteous behaviour and submission to the divine will (the word **Islam** means "submission," and a **Muslim** is literally "one who submits") and punishes unrighteousness.

- "If ye love Allah, follow me; Allah will love and forgive you your sins." (Qur'an 3:31)
- "Allah loves **not** transgressors" (2:190)
- "He loves **not** creatures ungrateful or wicked" (2:276)
- "Allah loves **not** those who do wrong" (3:57, 140)
- "Allah loves **not** the arrogant, the vainglorious" (4:36).

Yet divine **mercy** is not absent from the Qur'an. It teaches that God will respond to anyone who cries out to him in distress and that he mercifully provides guidance to humanity so they can follow "the straight path."

2. The angels of God;
3. The books of God, especially the Qur'an;
4. **The prophets of God, especially Muhammad;**

Traditionally, five prophets are recognized by Islam as having been sent by God (known as *ulul azmi*, "the Resolute").

1. Noah (Nuh)
2. Abraham (Ibrahim)
3. Moses (Musa)
4. Jesus (Isa)
5. Muhammad

Muhammad, the founder of Islam, is revered as "the Seal of the Prophets" - the last and greatest of the messengers of God. He is not divine in any way, for the strict monotheism that characterizes Islam does not allow for such an

interpretation. Other prophets (nabi in Arabic) are important in Islam as well, all of which are shared with the Jews or the Christians.

Muslims trace their heritage to the Hebrew people and prophets. The term "Semite" derives from Shem, the son of Noah, and both Jews and Arabs consider themselves Semitic people. In particular, they trace their ancestry to Ishmael, the firstborn son of **Abraham**. The Qur'an departs from the biblical story of Abraham to follow the story of Ishmael rather than Isaac.

We gave Moses the Book, completing (Our favour) to those who would do right, and explaining all things in detail, and a guide and a mercy, that they might believe in the meeting with their Lord. And this is a Book which We have revealed as a blessing: so follow it and be righteous, that ye may receive mercy: Lest ye should say: "The Book was sent down to two Peoples before us, and for our part, we remained unacquainted with all that they learned by assiduous study:" {Qur'an 6:154-56}

5. The Day of Judgment (or the afterlife);

- Islam teaches the continued existence of the soul and a transformed physical existence after death. Muslims believe there will be a day of judgment when all humans will be divided between the eternal destinations of Paradise and Hell.
- Until the Day of Judgment, deceased souls remain in their graves awaiting the resurrection. However, they begin to feel immediately a taste of their destiny to come. Those bound for hell will suffer in their graves, while those bound for heaven will be in peace until that time.
- The resurrection that will take place on the Last Day is physical, and is explained by suggesting that God will re-create the decayed body (17:100: "Could they not see that God who created the heavens and the earth is able to create the like of them?").
- On the Last Day, resurrected humans and jinn will be judged by Allah according to their deeds. One's eternal destination depends on balance of good to bad deeds in life. They are either granted admission to Paradise, where they will enjoy spiritual and physical pleasures forever, or condemned to Hell to suffer spiritual and physical torment for eternity. The day of judgment is described as passing over Hell on a narrow bridge in order to enter Paradise. Those who fall, weighted by their bad deeds, will remain in Hell forever. The Qur'an specifies two exceptions to this general rule:
- Warriors who die fighting in the cause of God are ushered immediately to God's presence (2:159 and 3:169); and
- "Enemies of Islam" are sentenced immediately to Hell upon death.
- **Paradise** (firdaws), also called "The Garden" (Janna), is a place of physical and spiritual pleasure, with lofty mansions (39:20, 29:58-59), delicious

food and drink (52:22, 52:19, 38:51), and virgin companions called houris (56:17-19, 52:24-25, 76:19, 56:35-38, 37:48-49, 38:52-54, 44:51-56, 52:20-21). There are seven heavens (17:46, 23:88, 41:11, 65:12).

- **Hell**, or Jahannam (Greek gehenna), is mentioned frequently in the Qur'an and the Sunnah using a variety of imagery. It has seven doors (Qur'an 39:71; 15:43) leading to a fiery crater of various levels, the lowest of which contains the tree Zaqqum and a cauldron of boiling pitch. The level of hell depends on the degree of offenses. Suffering is both physical and spiritual.

6. The supremacy of God's will (or predestination).

- Qadar (Arabic: قدر, transliterated qadar, meaning "fate", "divine fore-ordainment", "predestination")[1] is the concept of divine destiny in Islam. Qadar is one of the aspects of aqidah.
- Some Muslims believe that the divine destiny is when God wrote down in the Preserved Tablet ("al-Lauh al-Mahfuz") all that has happened and will happen, which will come to pass as written. According to this belief, a person's action is not caused by what is written in the Preserved Tablet but, rather, the action is written in the Preserved Tablet because God already knows all occurrences without the restrictions of time

This list is sometimes shortened to **Five Articles of Faith**, which leaves off belief in the supremacy of God's will.

Other Important Beliefs

1. According to the **Qur'an**, Allah "**created man** from a clot of blood" at the same time he created the *jinn* from fire.
2. **Humans are the greatest of all creatures**, created with free will for the purpose of obeying and serving God.
3. In the Qur'an, Adam and Eve begged God's forgiveness (7:23) and he punished them with a mortal life on earth but added, "**from it [earth] you will be taken out at last**" (7:25).
4. Since Allah forgave the sins of the first pair, **Muslims believe, all are born in Al-Fitra, a natural state of submission to Allah**. True repentance from sin returns a person to this original sinless state.
5. According to Muslim theology, mankind's chief failing is **pride and rebellion**. In their pride, humans attempt to partner themselves with God and thereby damage the unity of God. Thus pride is Islam's cardinal sin. The cardinal virtue, then, is submission, or *islam*.
6. The Muslim doctrine of salvation is that unbelievers (*kuffar*, literally "those who are ungrateful") and sinners will be condemned, but genuine repentance results in Allah's forgiveness and entrance into Paradise upon death. To those who believe and do deeds of righteousness hath Allah promised forgiveness and a great reward. (5:9)

7. But those who believe and work righteousness,- no burden do We place on any soul, but that which it can bear, they will be Companions of the Garden, therein to dwell (forever). (7:42)
8. The Qur'an teaches the necessity of both faith and good works for salvation:
9. For a **Muslim**, the **purpose of life** is to live in a way that is pleasing to **Allah** so that one may gain Paradise. It is believed that at puberty, an account of each person's deeds is opened, and this will be used at the Day of Judgment to determine his eternal fate. The Qur'an also suggests a doctrine of divine predestination.
10. The Qur'an is clear that there must be "no compulsion in religion." {1} Yet Muslims are not pluralistic in their worldview - they consider their religion to be the true religion and invite people of all races, nationalities and religions to be part of it.
11. Nevertheless Jihad and killing of unbelievers is an important teaching in the Qur'an.
12. Although the Qur'an teaches that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, **it rejects the divinity of Jesus. - that he is the Son of God, that he was resurrected from death**
13. It explicitly condemns the doctrine of the Trinity, which it seems to interpret as consisting of God, Jesus and Mary:
14. Despite these sharp theological differences, the Qur'an does suggest there is hope for the salvation of Jews and Christians: at the Last Day, distinct communities will be judged according to "their own book" and:
15. Those who believe [in the Qur'an], and those who follow the Jewish, and the Christians, and the Sabians, any who believe in God and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.

are either granted admission to Paradise, where they will enjoy spiritual and physical pleasures forever, or condemned to Hell to suffer spiritual and physical torment for eternity. The day of judgment is described as passing over Hell on a narrow bridge in order to enter Paradise. Those who fall, weighted by their bad deeds, will remain in Hell forever.

The same religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah - the which We have sent by inspiration to thee - and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely, that ye should remain steadfast in religion, and make no divisions therein: to those who worship other things than Allah, hard is the (way) to which thou callest them. Allah chooses to Himself those whom He pleases, and guides to Himself those who turn to Him. {2}

Moreover, as seen in the quote above, Muslims consider the prophets of Judaism and Christianity to be true messengers of God, but hold Muhammad to be the last and greatest of these.

Hinduism

What are the basic tenets of Hinduism?:

There is no “one Hinduism”, and so it lacks any unified system of beliefs and ideas. Hinduism is a conglomerate of diverse beliefs and traditions, in which the prominent themes include:

- Dharma (ethics and duties)
- Samsara (rebirth)
- Karma (right action)
- Moksha (liberation from the cycle of Samsara)

It also believes in truth, honesty, non-violence, celibacy, cleanliness, contentment, prayers, austerity, perseverance, penance, and pious company.

How is Hinduism unique from other religions?:

Hinduism cannot be neatly slotted into any particular belief system. Unlike other religions, Hinduism is a way of life, a Dharma, that is, the law that governs all action. It has its own beliefs, traditions, advanced system of ethics, meaningful rituals, philosophy and theology. The religious tradition of Hinduism is solely responsible for the creation of such original concepts and practices as Yoga, Ayurveda, Vastu, Jyotish, Yajna, Puja, Tantra, Vedanta, Karma, etc.