

*Defend!*

*By Craig Cooper*

# ***Defend!***

By Craig B. Cooper

All Rights Reserved © Copyright 2008 by Craig B. Cooper  
Published by Craig B. Cooper  
[www.craigbcooper.com](http://www.craigbcooper.com)

Scriptures taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® unless otherwise noted. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

# *Defend!*

By some estimates, 95% of High School students give up their faith when they go to college. This book was written to help lower that statistic and to give confidence to all Christians that the Bible is right and how to defend that belief.

This book is small and is only a beginning. There are many books that will take you further into the journey of showing that Christianity is the only logical explanation for the world. It is our hope that this book creates a hunger to know that no other belief or system has a better scientific explanation for the world than the Holy Bible.



# Table of Contents

Lesson 1	What is Apologetics & Why Care?	6
Lesson 2	Reliability of the Bible	9
Lesson 3	Evolution vs. Creation – Part 1	12
Lesson 4	Evolution vs. Creation – Part 2	14
Lesson 5	Uniqueness of Jesus & Christianity	18
Lesson 6	Proof of His Resurrection	21
Lesson 7	Commonly Asked Questions	24
Lesson 8	Humanism – America’s Religion	28
Lesson 9	Eastern Religions	29
Lesson 10	Common Characteristics of Cults	32

# Lesson 1 - What is Apologetics & Why Care?

## Introduction

*I Peter 3:15b Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

Gone are the days when you can tell someone they need to get their life straightened out and ask Jesus in their heart. Many people will not understand what you are talking about.

Our job is no longer so simple. There are people out there now who don't know anything about God, let alone Jesus. We are now in a post Christian society. We have to witness as if we are witnessing to people who have never heard the gospel. We have to start with the basics like is there a God? Many people no longer have a basic understanding that enables them to believe in Jesus quickly.

While Christianity is becoming less understood, the opportunities to share our faith are great. People are opening up to the gospel.

It is essential that we learn to clearly express rational answers to the questions people are asking about the Christian faith. People will come to Jesus Christ when we help them answer their questions. Personal testimonies are a great way to witness, but often people need questions answered to specific questions.

This subject is known as "apologetics". Apologetics does not refer to making apologies for what one believes, but rather to making an "apologia" or rational defense of Christianity.

Scriptures commands us to have an answer:

*Jude 3 - "... contend for the faith"*

*I Peter 3:15 "...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks ..."*

We need to study apologetics to be able to help people hurdle the barriers which keep them from accepting Jesus Christ.

## How To Deliver Your Answer

### 1. Don't Argue

Apologetics doesn't mean we argue with people. Arguing does no good.

We study apologetics to increase our belief in the Bible and it gives us the intellectual foundation to share with gentleness and respect because we have grown confident in our own position.

We do not have to raise our voice when sharing with others. Never do this. All we are trying to do is get an intellectual hook in them that the Holy Spirit can use to convict.

*James 3:17 (LB) - "Wisdom is gentle"*

*II Timothy 2:14 - "Do not wrangle about words ..."*

Remember, no one comes to God by intellectual arguments or knowledge alone. Everyone comes to God by the Holy Spirit. We do not want to win an argument and lose the person. Our main objective is to lead people to Jesus Christ.

## **2. Ask Them Questions**

The study of apologetics gives you the confidence to not only answer the questions of others, but to ask questions. Too many times we find ourselves on the defensive. As we learn more about the scientific proof of the Bible and its statements it gives us the confidence to ask questions of others about their beliefs.

## **3. Be Humble**

Examine our attitudes - Do not be proud. It turns people off and keeps people from God. We must remain humble. We do this by remembering that we did not get our knowledge on our own. We got it because God was merciful enough to share it with us.

Try to see people as God sees them:

- “They perish for a lack of knowledge”
- Pray for Compassion
- “For the wages of sin is death”
- These people are going to go to Hell w/o Jesus Christ and burn forever.

## **4. Remember the main Question is, “Who is Jesus?”**

Give them the answers to their questions, but let your final challenge be about what they think about Jesus Christ.

# **What Part Does Faith Play?**

Actually, faith plays a big part. Whether you are a Believer, Deist, or Atheist, faith plays a big part for everyone. No one has been to the after life and returned to tell us what it is like with scientific evidence. No one was at the beginning of the world and can tell us what happened. So we all have faith based on evidence that does not give a complete answer.

Rest assured, the believer’s faith is an objective faith. We have faith in something, an object, something worth believing in. The world says, “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you believe!” NOT TRUE!! Your object can’t just be anything. It matters. I can believe I can fly by flapping arms. But I don’t care how much “Faith” I may have, I will never fly. This is because I have faith in the wrong object.

It is so comforting when our mind lines up with our heart! We get a mature faith which produces stability and peace. James 1:5-6 says that doubting produces instability. You do not have to commit intellectual suicide to be a Christian. Just the opposite occurs. We do not have a “blind faith”, but a faith based on an object — Jesus Christ - with a great amount of evidence. We don’t shy away from telling “smart” people we are Christians. We don’t get embarrassed.

# **Where Part Does Experience Play?**

Our experience confirms the truth. Christians can go to two extremes.

## **Extreme #1**

We could say you must believe because it has worked for me. Our experience alone does not make something true, it can validate the truth but it does not make it true.

## **Extreme #2**

We have all the answers but no meaningful application to our life. The answers are not changing our lives. People could then say, "Who needs Christianity, it is just an intellectual pursuit, it hasn't done anything good for you".

## **Proper Attitude about Experience**

You may start out in a casual conversation with saying, "I've found something that has really helped me to enjoy life better!" Your testimony/experience is a hook that will get them interested. You then proceed to tell them about Jesus Christ and answer any questions they may have.

# Lesson 2 - Reliability of the Bible

## Introduction

Bedrock of Christianity is the Bible's reliability. If it is not true or reliable, your Christianity will fall apart. The objections of many people to the reliability of the Bible are not based on first hand information but on second and third hand reports.

Read it for yourself and try to disprove it. Encourage other people to read it themselves. Tell them to start in John. Ask them to read it and ask the question ahead of time, "God, if you are really there and if this is your Word, make yourself real as I read it". This is exactly how famous people like C.S. Lewis and Josh McDowell became Christians.

## Archaeology supports the Bible

Time has consistently proven that the ancient cities of the Bible were real and not fictitious sites. The early date, accuracy, and number of the manuscript copies further support the reliability of the Bible.

AUTHOR	WHEN WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME SPAN	NO. OF COPIES
Sophocles	496—406 B.C.	1,000 A.D.	1,400 yrs.	100
Herodotus (History)	480—425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Thuryldes (History)	460—400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs	7
Aristotle	384—322 B.C.	1,100 A.D.	1,400 yrs.	5 (of any one work)
Caesar	100—44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs.	10
Bible (New Testament)	45—100 A.D.	130 A.D (fragments)	50-300 yrs.	5000 (Greek) 8000 (LatIn) 1000 (Other)

If one dismisses the Bible as a reliable document, to be consistent you have to dismiss as reliable all knowledge about Caesar, Livy, Plato, Tacitus, Sophocles, etc. The earliest historical copies of their writings were written long after the fact.

Realize that the writers claimed to be eyewitnesses. They did not hear the stories third hand. We have early copies of the Bible dating to early 100's and are amazingly accurate to what we have today. The more copies we have, we can test the accuracy by cross checking.

For example: I write a book saying I was the President. If no one else writes on this subject, then 1000 years from now people could believe me. There is no one to dispute it. Most other ancient works have a span of 1000 yrs or greater since the fact.

## The consistency and unity of the Bible argue for its inspiration by God

- Written over a 1500 year period
- 40 Different Authors
- The Authors had a varied background — peasants, kings, philosophers, poets, statesman, scholars, etc.
- Written in different places — wilderness, dungeon, palace, etc.
- Written on 3 continents
- Written in 3 languages — Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic
- Discusses controversial subjects — politics, religion, finances, etc.

Through the whole Bible there is harmony, unity, and one common theme -- the need for a blood sacrifice culminating in Jesus Christ to bring man to God.

## **Fulfilled prophecy is yet another clear demonstration of the inspiration of the Bible**

The “track record” of the Bible throughout its own history is that it has been of overwhelmingly beneficial effect to both individuals and societies when they allowed themselves to be exposed to it. No other book has had such an impact on societies and lives. It is the number 1 bestselling book of all time!

There are 30 to 40 other religious books, but the Bible has produced amazing beneficial results unlike any of the others to society. For instance, the Koran is an oppressive system - especially to women. The Hindus religious writings have resulted in India’s Caste System

The Bible is/has

- the most spit upon but has set more people free
- the most hated but has given more hope
- the most cursed but has released more from bondage
- the most misinterpreted but has encouraged more people
- the most burned but has caused more societies to prosper
- the most banned but has caused more healings
- divided more families but changed more lives
- made more martyrs than any book known to man

The authors of the Bible claimed that their writings were inspired. By Jesus Christ Himself. He claimed this in Matt 5:17-18 and Matt 15:4-6. There are 2600 claims in the O.T. of it’s origin coming from divine Inspiration.

## **The Bible and Interpretation**

What about the claim that the Bible is wrong because of bad interpretation from the original languages? When you apply standard based rules of interpretation the majority of these “problems” disappear. For example:

- Take things in context.
- Read the surrounding passages.
- Take things in historical context. You have to understand the customs and habits of the times to understand some passages properly.

If you do not have a rock solid commitment to the inerrancy (no errors) of the Bible your whole faith will become shaky.

The bible is living and powerful and changes men's lives!!!

*Matt 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall not pass away"*

Voltaire the Philosopher said 250 years ago as he held a copy of the Bible in his hand, "In 100 years this book will be forgotten, eliminated." 100 years later to the day his house became the headquarters of the Geneva Bible Society, distributing Bibles out of his house. What a sense of humor God has!

Illustration of how Bible is not intimidated by Science.

*Isa 40:21,22 - "Circle of the Earth" Circle in Hebrew means sphere.  
Job 26:7 - ". . .earth upon nothing". Nothing held it up.*

Written 3000 years ago when common beliefs were the earth was flat and held up by elephants on top of tortoises.

# Lesson 3 - Evolution vs. Creation - Part 1

## Introduction

Why is this topic so important? Because it effects why you are on earth – your purpose!

In Gen 1:26 it says we were made in God's image. We are the Pinnacle of God's creation. Evolution downgrades our place in creation. We are not just 'evolved' animals. We are people created in His image that were designed to reign over the animals and the earth. He knows that under Jesus we can take back creation where He reigns and rule & reign ourselves. But this would not be true if we lose the valuable place in the plan of Creation that God did for us.

## What Does God Say About Us?

*Eph 1:4-5 Choose us before the foundation of the world Adopted us as sons*

*Eph 1:13-14 Sealed us with the Holy Spirit. Gave us an inheritance*

Does this sound like evolution?

## Definition of Science

Definition of Science:

1. Repeatable Experiments
2. You can make predictions on facts gained
3. Falsifiability - Can test a concept to be true or false

Both evolution and creation are not scientific by this criteria. They both take faith.

Evolution tries to get around the science problem by using a variable called time. Evolutionists solve the problems of evolution by saying that you just need more time to work.

Have you ever noticed how the length of time that evolution has supposedly been working keeps getting longer? Evolutionists can't solve the problem so they try to disguise it with huge amounts of time.

Illustration of creation's amazing ability: There is a computer that has been made in the world. It's a super computer, it holds more information than any computer has ever held before. It holds 12.5 gigabytes (12.5 million million pieces of information). It not only holds numbers, but also visual images, and sound. If you went up to the designer of this computer and told him that his creation came about by random chance over a period of time he would put you in an insane asylum. Right? What if I told you that this supercomputer only weighed 4 lbs.? Wouldn't you be even more amazed? What if I told you that the designer had given the computer a name and it's name was the Brain and the designer was God.

## What about the Mutations We Hear about that Causes Evolution?

1. In observance of nature, High % of mutations produces very bad results not beneficial ones. This again verifies the 2nd law of thermodynamics.

2. The mutations then never show up in the offspring.
3. Even in the rare cases of a good/neutral mutation it never goes beyond that mutation to form an organ. You don't get another mutation on top of a mutation.
4. The evolutionary law of natural selection, or survival of the fittest, would cause that mutation to eventually disappear because what good is it before it becomes an organ.

## **How Do We Explain The Similarities Among The Animals, Plants, And Humans?**

Illustration: Are there similarities between a Chevrolet S-10 pickup and a Chevrolet 4-door Cavalier? Yes! Same type of motors, 4-wheels, steering wheel, etc. Did these vehicles evolve from each other? No. Similarities proves nothing! They can just as easily prove a common designer using similar patterns.

If you believe in evolution which believes in randomness, there should not be that much similarity in the final outcome. Evolution predicts just the opposite – total chaos not similarity!

## **If Evolution is not Scientific why is it so Popular?**

If you believe in creation that means you have to admit that there is a supreme being. If you admit that there is a supreme being then have to answer the question am I accountable to Him?

Men cling so hard to evolution not because its science but it justifies their religion of there is no God. It is also called Humanism or materialism.

Man has gotten to the place where He worships the creation (himself or nature) instead of the Creator. See Romans 1:21-23,25.

# Lesson 4 - Evolution vs. Creation - Part 2

## What about the Fossils?

What about the fossil record, doesn't it support evolutionary growth? In the textbooks you see this nice graduated scale of evolution making you think that the fossil record is the basis of this chart. There is no place, not 1, in the world where this occurs. This is what is commonly called the missing link.

There is evolution with-in a species. For example, Dogs get bigger or smaller, etc. But there is not evolution across species. There is no proof anywhere that this has occurred. This is the missing link.

The fossil record is really all mixed up – there are no gradual developments. What does this say to you? That they were all created at once. This is what we mean when we say which religion best supports the evidence. Which theory do you think takes more faith?

## Evolution and the Bible

Is evolution compatible with the Bible?

Is Genesis figurative and really pointing to evolution?

There have been many people who have tried to harmonize evolution with the Bible. We want to discuss the biblical evidence against evolution. There are not two systems more opposite to each other. Evolution and the Bible cannot coexist. You cannot say you believe in evolution and the Bible.

- 1.) The denial of a literal interpretation of scripture where it is meant to be literal. The first chapters of Genesis were quoted many times by Jesus and Paul. In all of these quotations, it was understood as a historical event.
- 2.) Evolution teaches the concept of a constant progression of evolving life forms. The Bible clearly states that new creation is finished. Heb. 4:3; Gen 2:3
- 3.) Evolution contradicts the doctrine of fixed kinds. I Cor 15:38—39; Gen. 1:24—26

Many people try to say that Moses wrote Genesis and its account of creation to match the common beliefs of his day. This is far from the truth. Evolution did not start with Charles Darwin. Even Darwin's grandfather wrote books on natural selection before Charles was even born. The concept of all life coming from a common stock and matter being eternal was known in ancient Egypt and Babylonia. It is interesting that Moses and Paul had knowledge of this philosophy when they penned their words under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the previously mentioned text. The Biblical account is the first known record of a concept besides evolution.

- 4.) Evolution is incompatible with Christian Ethics. This philosophy is one of "survival of the fittest" which has no place for the weak. This is the very backbone of atheism and satanism and not Christianity. Evolution always produces anti—Christian results — nazism, abortion, genocide, racism, humanism, new age theology, pornography, etc.
- 5.) Evolution denies the fact that man was created in the image of God - a clear teaching of scripture. Why should you have the Spirit of God in you and not a monkey?
- 6.) Many people say they are Deist evolutionists. They believe in God and say He created the original elements and started the process of evolution. God has then stepped back from His creation and has

nothing to do with it. God's Word clearly states that He wants to be an intimate part of our lives. Jesus becoming a man and dying for us does not speak of a God who does not want to be a part of our lives.

7.) Evolution denies the fact that physical death was a result of the fall. There can be no clearer teaching in scripture than this. In Gen. 2:17 we read that God tells Adam that "the day that thou eat of it thou shalt surely die." The Hebrew text states that "having died thou shalt die." There is a two-fold death stated in the original. Because he died spiritually he died physically. Rom. 5:12—21

\* The material above was taken from "Evolution and the Bible" in the Bible-Science Newsletter of March 1989 by Michael Krall.

This concept of death starting at Adam is crucial to Christianity. If death did not start with sin, then the Bible is a liar and we do not die because of sin. Furthermore, in I Corinthians 15:22 it says we are made dead by Adam's sin and made alive by Jesus' conquering death and sin. If death did not start with Adam's sin then Jesus Christ's work was wasted and makes no difference. Jesus died in vain.

Remember Jesus said He was the second Adam. If you believe in evolution there was never a first Adam. Jesus was trying to save us from something that never happened. I Cor. 15:45. If you believe in evolution you do not believe in the saving work done by Jesus Christ which is the only way to be saved.

7.) Genesis gives genealogies starting with Adam of men. This includes names and lengths of their lives. Does this sound like evolution?

8.) The order of events in creation is in contradiction to the accepted evolutionary sequence: green plants before the sun, whales before land animals, birds before "creeping things".

9.) The Bible clearly states that the Creator was our Lord Jesus Christ. Jn. 1:1—3,10,14; I Cor 8:6; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16—17; Heb. 1:1,2

Jn. 1:1-3 says "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." It was not "In the beginning was the word, and the word was hydrogen."

If you believe in evolution you have committed blasphemy and called God a liar.

## **A Young Earth or an Old Earth?**

Evolution requires that the earth be billions of years old so that the time factor can be present to allow everything to evolve. Bible literalists state that the earth cannot be older than 10,000 years according to the genealogies of the Bible. This is a major discrepancy that causes many Christians have problems with.

The only method that scientists use to say the earth is old is radiometric or carbon-14 dating method. This method has many problems. Because of the complexity of the issue we will not go into the details here.

There are over 70 methods/techniques by which show the earth is young. But you never hear about these because they do not support evolution. Nothing in science demands an old earth except for the theory of evolution. Obtain the book "It's a Young World After All" by Paul Ackerman for more information.

God created the world already mature. For instance, Adam and Eve did not have to wait for the fruit trees to grow, produce buds, and grow ripe fruit before they could eat. They would have starved if that was the case.

## **The Gap Theory – What is it? Is it Valid?**

The “gap theory” is the idea that Genesis 1:1 records the special creation of the heavens and the earth billions of years ago. It was on that earth that the prehistoric men and animals were said to have lived. It was also during this time, according to the gap theory, that Satan’s rebellion took place and he was cast down to earth. He led the earth’s inhabitants into complete rebellion against God, which was followed by the judgment of God, which destroyed the entire earth with a flood from which there were no survivors. Genesis 1:2 picks up “with the earth was without form, and void;” because of the judgment of God upon it. This gap is where the dinosaurs are said to have lived. This theory is also known as the “Ruin and Reconstruction Theory” and the “Pre-Adamic Cataclysm Theory”. There is much detail we could go into, but we will just hit the major points of why this theory is not Biblical.

1.) This is a historically new teaching. It was first published in 1814 by Thomas Chalmers who wanted to make the biblical history fit into the vast ages claimed by geologists. The idea was then popularized in 1917 in the Scofield Reference Bible. Christians have readily taken up this theory because it seems to reconcile the Bible with science.

2.) The “gap theory” introduces death before man’s sin, which destroys the truthfulness of the biblical account that death came into being because of sin. It unravels the gospel and the truthfulness of the Scriptures.

3.) The “gap theory” denies that man is a special creation. It says that man is a back—up plan or secondary plan because the first one didn’t work out. BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD (i.e. before verse 1 of Genesis) God created and pre—destined us to good works. We were a part of His plan since eternity past. Eph. 2:10; Matt. 13:35.

4.) Gap theorists say that Gen.1:2, “And the earth was without form, and void” should be translated to “the earth became without form and void”. The majority of scholars don’t accept this translation (neither does the KJV, NASB, LB, AMPLIFIED, or NIV versions).

5.) Genesis 1:3 presents an obstacle to overcome for the gap theorists. God created light in this verse. This means that either the first world had no light or the ensuing flood/judgment also destroyed the original light.

6.) We don’t need a gap to explain the battle between God and Satan. The battle did not have to happen in time. It could have happened outside of time like so many other supernatural events do.

7.) Another argument used by gap theorists is based on the KJV of Gen. 1:28. The gap theorists say the word “replenish” (translated “fill” in the NASB) implies that the world was once filled and now must be re-filled. This word in the Hebrew is translated in 53 different ways in the KJV - “fill” (for the first time), “to be satisfied”, “to accomplish”, and “to furnish”. Does this translation in Gen. 1:28 convey a clear sense of refilling what was once empty? Should we base a theory on one word?

8.) There are other scripture interpretations that the gap theorists bring in to try and prove their point. But if all these scriptures are read with no bias or previous assumption of a “gap” one would never come to this conclusion. The Bible is to be taken literally and not try to make it coincide with man’s science.

## **Were the Days in Genesis Literally 24 hours long?**

1.) The word “day” is the Hebrew word “yom”. This word does not strictly demand 24 hours, but it is never used to refer to a huge, unspecified period of time like evolution demands.

2.) But, whenever “yom” is used in the Old Testament with a number, or whenever it is used with the phrase “evening and morning” or “dark and light”, it *always* means a 24 hour day. Wherever you find this occurring in the O.T. and do not interpret it as a 24 hour period the passage makes no sense. If we are going to interpret Genesis with the same rules of interpretation as elsewhere in the Bible we must assume a 24 hour period.

Whenever you don't take the Scripture literally, and still try to say Jesus Christ is the Savior of the World which we all must believe in, you will find yourself quickly in a pit which you can't dig out of.

## What Happened to the Dinosaurs?

"Science" tells us that dinosaurs existed millions of years before man came along. But if one believes that all things were created within the same 6 days and that there is no "gap" theory, this means that man and the dinosaurs lived at the same time. There is evidence for this from the Bible and from nature.

There is no absolute proof for what happened to the dinosaurs. We have to look at the whole picture and determine which "theory" best supports the evidence. Every viewpoint on this subject is a theory because none of us was there to see it happen.

- 1.) Every culture on Earth has myths and stories about dragons - likely testimony that post flood man and dinosaurs lived together. Most myths have some root in truth.
- 2.) Job describes a dragon-like beast, the "leviathan". "Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering." "His back has rows of shields tightly sealed together" (stegosaurus?). "His sneezing throws out flashes of light, sparks of fire shoot out; smoke pours from his nostrils; flames dart from his mouth." "When he rises up, the mighty are terrified; they retreat before his thrashing. The sword that reaches him has no effect, nor does the spear or the dart or the javelin." (Job 41:9,15,18-21,25-26.NIV).
- 3.) It seems likely that the Lord would bring juvenile (not adult) dinosaurs onto the ark because of space considerations. A healthy, semi—mature, young tyrannosaurus was probably no larger than a large horse or a small elephant.
- 4.) There are fossils where human tracks were made at the same time as dinosaur tracks. The human tracks were on top of the dinosaur footprints and then fossilized. There are no distinctions in the geologic record of dinosaurs existing before man.
- 5.) "Not many years ago, a Japanese trawler hauled up the rotting carcass of a strange sea creature with a long neck and flippers. They tossed the smelly carcass back into the ocean again, but the pictures they took identified it as most likely a plesiosaurus, a sea—dwelling dinosaur." Bible-Science Newsletter, January 1990, page 12.
- 6.) Most creationists believe that after the flood great climatic changes took place on the earth. Because of the volume of water on the earth for a year, it is believed that the earth became cooler, wetter, and more changeable. This seems to have resulted in the dinosaurs' virtual extinction over time just as other factors resulted in the extinction of other creatures. This extinction, as all extinctions, is due to the result of man's sin which causes all of creation to groan.

# Lesson 5 - Uniqueness of Jesus & Christianity

## Why Is Jesus Christ Unique?

He Jesus Claimed to be GOD! He said He was more than a prophet — He said, "I Am the Only Way" Neither Confucius, Gandhi, or Muhammad said this.

**Jesus' claim to Deity** - Mark 14:61-64; John 10:30—33; John 5:17—18;

**Jesus Allowed People To Worship Him** - John 9:35—39; Matt 14:33

**What Others Said About Jesus** – Paul in Titus 2:13; Peter in Matt 16:16

Exodus 3:14 "I AM" — YHWH in the Hebrew. This name was sacred to the Jews. They never spoke the name YHWH. Highest form of respect for God. Jesus used these same words about himself in John 8:24,28,58.

Jesus left no doubt about who He thought He was. He said He was GOD! Jesus himself said He was more than a prophet—He said, "*I am the only Way*". Neither Confucius, Gandhi, or Mohammed said this.

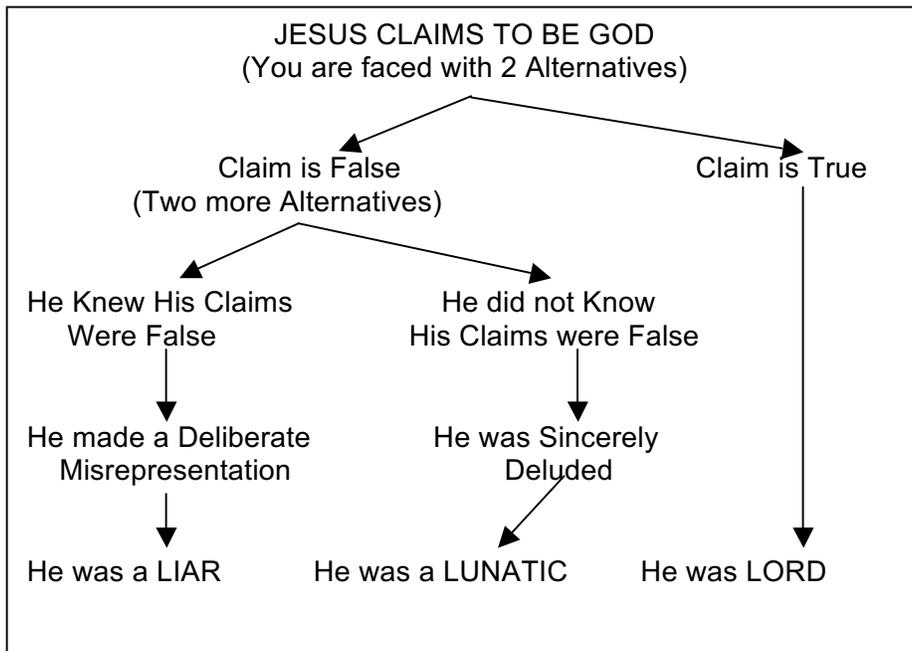
The reason it is important to know that Jesus claimed to be God is that it overrules or makes impossible the most common beliefs people have of Jesus. If you admit that Jesus is God you have to do something with this fact. Either accept, reject, or continue in your discovery of Him until you accept or reject. Jesus being God is the *crux* of Christianity. People try to get around this by saying something similar to the following:

*"Jesus was a great moral teacher but not God"*  
*"Jesus was a prophet but not God"*

C.S. Lewis said the following: "*I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about 'Him': I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.*"

You can't be neutral about Jesus—He made it so you couldn't. The following illustration shows why:

Jesus was either a Liar, Lunatic, or Lord. If He was Lord then we can either accept or reject Him. Our job is to help people understand this. They must either accept or reject Him. They cannot claim that He was just a great prophet or teacher. This is the easy way out that Jesus didn't give us the option of having.



## Other Unique Qualities about Jesus

He influenced history more than anyone else. Our modern dating method started with Him. All of Western Civilization traces its roots to biblical ethics. This is amazing considering that Jesus never wrote a book, never spoke on TV, never made tapes, sent out newsletters, never traveled more than 100 miles from his birth place. Yet His message spread rapidly around the world with just a hand few of people to do it with. There is something supernatural in this.

Jesus is the only man to predict his death, burial, and resurrection, and have it come true.

Jesus fulfilled prophecies about a coming savior written in the OT from 400-1500 years earlier. He fulfilled 60 major prophecies with over 270 ramifications. The odds of fulfilling just 8 major prophecies is 1 chance in 10 to the 17th power (1 followed by 17 zeros). The odds of fulfilling 48 major prophecies is 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power (1 followed by 157 zeros). These are impossible odds for one man to fulfill unless He was truly God.

NOTE: 1 chance in 10 to the 17th power is equivalent to the state of Texas being covered in silver dollars one foot deep. You mark one. Blind fold a man and tell him to pick up the right silver dollar the first time.

## Some Prophecies Fulfilled

Isaiah 53

Rejected By His Own People	53:5	John 7:5,48
Wounded and Bruised	53:5	Matt 27:26
Silent before His Accusers	53:7	Matt 27:12—19
Buried in a rich man's tomb	53:9	Matt 27:57-60
Put to death with Thieves	53:12	Matt 27:38
Made intercession for His Persecutors	53:12	Luke 23:34

## What is so Different about Christianity?

Christianity is the only religion that is not based on works. Every other religion requires you to do something to be saved. *Ephesians 2:8-9* <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this

*not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Pride often keeps people from accepting Jesus Christ. It takes humility to become a Christian. We put our dependence not on our works but on Jesus' works.

Christianity is also the only religion to give assurance of salvation. This is true because we never have to wonder if we've done enough "good works". It is all based on the works of Jesus.

*James 4:6 ". . .gives grace to the Humble"*

We put our dependence not on our works but on Jesus' works.

Only religion to give assurance of salvation. This is true because we never have to wonder if we've done enough "good works".

# Lesson 6 - Proof of Jesus' Resurrection

*1 Corinthians 15:12-14 (NLT) <sup>12</sup>But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ was not raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your trust in God is useless.*

In talking to non—Christians, we don't just spout off answers. We need to see the big picture and GUIDE people in their thinking. We don't CATTLE-PROD them in to thinking like us.

The Tomb Was Empty - Historical Fact. No one in ancient literature disputes this fact.

Let's discuss four of the most common theories about what happened besides Jesus Christ rising from the dead.

## Theory 1 - Jesus' Body Was Stolen By The Disciples

1. Disciples were not motivated to steal body. This would have started the persecutions. Which is exactly what ended up happening. Upon hearing the news of Jesus' resurrection, the disciple's were just as suprised and skeptical as anyone. Remember Doubting Thomas.
2. The Tomb was guarded by elite Roman Soldiers. The punishment for falling asleep on the job or desertion was death. The guards would not have been scared by coward disciples who days earlier wouldn't even acknowledge they knew Jesus. If there was a fight with the guards a history book written at this time would have surely mentioned it. The Jews certainly would have.
3. The tomb was a solid rock weighing 1-2 tons (2-4,000 lbs.). Don't you think the guards would have noticed this being moved by the disciples. Matt 27:59-66 & Matt 28:1-4 says the guards fled in terror at a supernatural act opening the tomb.
4. A Roman seal was placed on the tomb's edge. A psychological barrier to opening the tomb.
5. 10 of 11 disciples died a violent, torturous death. If the disciples faked the resurrection, do you think they would have all died a painful death for a lie. Human nature tells us that at least one of them would have recanted.

## Theory 2 - Jesus Fainted On The Cross, Was Later Revived And Freed Himself From The Tomb ("Swoon Theory")

1. Jesus did die. His side was pierced. Blood & Water poured forth. A medical sign of death. Testimony of centurion to release body off cross.
2. He would have had to free Himself from being wrapped in 100 lbs. of linen cloth of myrrh & aloes. The grave clothes were empty. John 19:39—41; John 20:5—7
3. Jesus rolled away a 1 to 2-ton stone by Himself after physical torture and hanging hours on a cross.
4. Jesus would have had to terrify the guards to the point of running away without them knowing it was Him.

*Matthew 28:1-4 (NLT) <sup>1</sup>Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly there was a great earthquake, because an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. NOTE: These were Roman Soldiers.*

5. He would have then had to walk miles on pierced and wounded feet.

6. He would then have had to appear to His disciples and give them the appearance He had conquered death.

### **Post Resurrection Appearances**

Many cases of Jesus appearing to people after the resurrection are noted in the Bible.

- A. Mary Magdalene and the other women. Matt 28:9-10; Mark 16:9 John 20:14—18
- B. Disciples in the Upper Room. Mark 16:14; Luke 24:26-49 John 20:19—29
- C. Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus. Mark 16:2; Luke 24;13-35
- D. Galilee. Matt 28:16-20
- E. By the Lake of Galilee or Sea of Tiberias. John 21:1—25
- F. Peter. I Cor. 15:5
- G. 500 Brethern. I Cor. 15:6
- H. James. I Cor 15:7
- I. Bethany. Luke 24:50—53; Acts 1:11
- J. Appeared for 40 days. Acts 1:3

Some skeptics say that all these appearances had one of the following explanations:

## **Theory 3 - Witnesses Of Jesus Christ Lied**

1. This would have been inconsistent with Jesus' teachings of truth and honesty.
2. No one recanted over 30 years of extreme pressure and persecution.
3. No one dies for a lie.

## **Theory 4 - Eyewitnesses Hallucinated and Imagined Appearances Of Jesus**

Common Characteristics of Hallucinations	Contrast With Events After Resurrection:
They tend to come to individuals, not groups.	Jesus, however, appeared not only to individuals but not less than seven times He appeared to groups of 2 to 500 people.
They tend to reoccur over long periods of time or fade out in frequency.	In this case, however Christ appeared for 40 days and then never again.
They come to individuals expecting and dwelling on a particular event or person.	The disciples had given up and assumed it was over. Their reactions upon seeing the risen Christ were: "startled and frightened" (Luke 24:37), that "trembling and astonishment had gripped them" (Mark 16: "Disbelief" (Luke 24:11), skepticism (John 20:25), and failure to recognize Him on three separate occasions (Luke 24:13, occasions (Luke

	24:13, 31; John 20:15;21:4).
There tends to be little variety in occurrence.	There was great variety in the recorded appearances of Christ. He talked with people, walked with them, ate with them, helped them fish, taught them, and ascended into heaven in their presence.

The changed lives of the disciples spoke that Jesus Christ did rise from the dead. Before the Resurrection they were cowards and deserters. After the Resurrection 10 of 11 disciples died violent deaths for Him. Their writings also reflected their changed characters — Humility, Love, etc.

# Lesson 7 - Most Asked Questions about Christianity

## #1 - What About The Heathen Who Have Never Heard The Gospel?

Other Ways Of Phrasing The Question:

1. What about the person who has never heard about Jesus Christ?  
We can't respond with an answer like, "Don't worry about him over there! What about you over here who have heard?". Don't dodge the question. We can use it as an opportunity to show what our God is like!
2. What about babies and brain-damaged people who are not able to understand?
3. What about the people who are religious but, having never heard of Jesus, call their god by a different name?

God is FAIR! He will not judge people by a standard/knowledge they do not possess.

Romans 21:11-15 The Jews will be judged under the Law since this is the knowledge they had. The Gentiles will be judged outside of the Law but according to their conscience given them by God.

We will be judged according to what we know. This goes for Christians too!

Everyone (Regardless of Geographic Location) has some information about God to which they may or may not respond. Everyone does have a chance!

Romans 1:18—20 Vs. 18 — Man's natural tendency is to suppress the truth.

Vs. 19 - God has put supernaturally in their bodies some knowledge about Himself and at one time or another they positively (evident) knew their had to be a God.

Vs. 20 - One of the biggest ways man knows their is a God is by looking at nature. This is one reason evolution is so insidious and is a lie from the Devil, because he knows people can find out about God through the created universe,

People must not only believe in the existence of God, but realize salvation comes through Jesus Christ. John 14:6.

God does not allow us to have a relationship with Him through a god by a different name. Acts 4:12; John 3:18; Phil 2:9-11; I John 5:10.

God through the Bible has given us no authorization to get to heaven without Jesus.

If anyone is willing to respond positively to what little information about God which they may possess (Romans 1:19-20), then God has obligated himself to get to them the rest of the information which they need about the person of Jesus Christ.

God is eager for all men to know Him. He does not hide information. I Timothy 2:4; Matt. 28:18—20; Acts 1:8

Paul (God's servant) had a burden for all men to know Jesus. Rom 10:14—15

The fact is that everyone in the world has the same sin problem and the resulting problem of separation from God. Jesus Christ is the only solution for that problem. It is important for everyone to hear. God has promised that whoever seeks will find.

II Chronicles 16:9; Proverbs 8:17; Ps 14:2; Matt 7:7—8

God WANTS people to be saved. He can hear their cries as they respond to the knowledge they have. He will get the information to them somehow. He can even use visions, dreams, etc.

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:**

Acts 8:26—40 Philip was supernaturally translated to a man in Ethiopia.

Acts 10 Peter was supernaturally sent to Cornelius to tell him about Jesus.

### **What About Babies Or People Who Are Brain-Damaged (They Cannot Choose Jesus)?**

God does not hold those accountable who do not have the capacity or intellect and will to seek Him.

All people are born with a sin nature (Romans 5:12). But Jesus provided a way of salvation from our sin and sin nature (I John 2:2). If a man goes to hell it is because He has REJECTED the free gift of salvation through Jesus.

God is not going to judge someone who doesn't even have the opportunity to decide.

II Samuel 12:22-23 David said he will see his baby who died in Heaven.

### **How Were The Old Testament People Saved Since Jesus Christ Had Not Come?**

They believed in Jesus just like me and you. The only difference is they looked ahead and had faith in His future arrival. We look behind and have faith that He came and died for our sins.

## **#2 - If God Is A Loving God, Why Do The Innocent Suffer? How Could A Loving God Send Anyone To Hell?**

According to the Bible, it is not God's Desire that anyone suffer,

He originally created the world without suffering - doesn't sound like a mean God to me. He is preparing a heaven where there will be no suffering.

Ps 9:9—10; John 10:10; Romans 2:4; John 3:17; Rev 21:4.

God gave man the power of choice.

Man choose to reject God, thereby man rejected the source of all good things.

Man's choice brought in sin, which brought in all of the suffering of the world. This sin even affected the earth/nature. Before sin there were no earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, etc. It introduced sickness and disease into the world. Why did sin cause all of this? God said that if man sinned he would surely die. Earthquakes, etc. are causing the earth to die. Sickness and disease are another way to die.

We must now live with the result of our choices:  
Drunk drivers kill thousands every year. Does God cause this? NO!

There IS enough food to feed the world. It is not distributed with equity. In India millions of tons of food is given to cows who they will not kill for food.

Men suffer because they abuse the good things God has given them: money, sex, power, government, intellect, knowledge, etc.

The penalty for sin is death in hell away from God forever. II Thess 1:9; Rom 3:23.

God in His mercy has provided a solution to suffering and death through Jesus Christ His Son.

If God had not allowed us the ability to choose, we would be nothing more than a robot. We would not have been able to experience real love.

God could remove the source of suffering (sin and evil), however, how many of us would still be around if He did. God can't just overlook our sin and pretend it never happened. This would violate His own character which includes justice.

Why doesn't God give people a second chance before sending them to Hell? He does!! He has given each person on earth millions of chances to accept Jesus Christ and to respond to the truth given them.

God does not desire anyone to go to Hell! Jn 3:17; I Tim 2:4; II Peter 3:9

### **#3 - Isn't It Too Narrow To Say That Jesus Christ Is The Only Way To God?**

**“These people are sincere therefore you can't say they're wrong”.**

The fallacy here is that SINCERITY DOES NOT EQUAL TRUTH! You can be sincere and right and you can be sincere and wrong.

ILLUSTRATION: Some years ago, Jim Marshall (a football player for the Minnesota Vikings) picked up a fumble, and fought off tacklers repeatedly until he crossed the goal line. The problem was that it was the wrong goal line. He had scored for the wrong team. He was sincere, but he was wrong.

ILLUSTRATION: The apostle Paul was a very sincere man. Before meeting Christ he was so sincere that he made it his business to persecute Christians. But by Paul's own testimony he was wrong (Acts 26).

**“It is too narrow—minded to say Jesus is the only way.”**

The fallacy is that because something is narrow does not mean it's wrong. In fact, one of the qualities of truth is that it usually is quite narrow. The question should not be “Is it narrow?” but “Is it true?”

ILLUSTRATION: The new cars say “use unleaded fuel only.” Someone could say, “That's too narrow! Why can't I use 'regular' or diesel fuel, or, for that matter, plain water.” The use of unleaded fuel is narrow, but is also correct.

**“Christ may be right for me, but that doesn't mean He's right for the rest of the world.”**

TRUTH does not depend on popular opinion, majority vote, or general acceptance.

ILLUSTRATION: Gravity cannot be ignored or voted out of existence. If i jump from an airplane without a parachute, I will face certain death even if I do not accept the truth of gravity.

**“You are too intolerant towards people to impose your religion on somebody else”**

First of all, we don't impose our religion on somebody else. We just give out the truth, everyone will have to decide for themselves.

We cannot endorse tolerance when it comes to the truth. Otherwords, we are saying there are absolutes in the world. Many people feel there are no absolutes. If we did away with all of the absolutes in the world, there would be chaos. For example, if you have something that I want and there are no absolutes, then there is no reason, if I am able why I should not take it from you and even kill you if necessary.

# Lesson 8 – Humanism - America's Religion

Every person and every society has a religion. America was founded as a nation which based its laws and institutions on principles found in the Bible. This is why America has been called a Christian nation. America has never been at the place where a majority of its people were Christians. But Christian values and principles permeated the country's structures. This is no longer true. America's laws, values, courts, and institutions are no longer based on Christian values. America is based on a new religion, its called Humanism. This new religion (also called secular humanism) dominates our government, public schools, and media.

Secular Humanism is a religion in the same way that Hinduism and Buddhism are religions. The United States Supreme Court has identified Secular Humanism as a religion. It ruled that the First Amendment grants the same protection and imposes the same limitations on the "religion of Secular Humanism" as are applicable to other religions (*Torcaso v. Watkins*, 367 US 488 (1961)).

## What is Secular Humanism?

- 1.) The universe has always existed and was never created.
- 2.) Man is a by product of a continuous process called evolution.
- 3.) There is no distinction between the soul/spirit of a man and his body. It is all one thing.
- 4.) Man is the center of all things. Thus, there is no right or wrong unless the man decides it is right or wrong.
- 5.) There are no absolutes in the world, so there is no guarantees of any rights. (Survival of the fittest).

Evolution directly leads to humanism.

- 6.) There is no belief in the supernatural. No supernatural events can occur.

"Situational ethics" are an example of Humanism permeating in the school.

You can legislature morality! If we don't another religion will. All law is based on some religion.

# Lesson 9 - Eastern Religions - America's Growing Religion

## New Age Theology

New Age Theology is just humanism with spirituality thrown in on it. New Age Theology is rapidly gaining significance in America. Its values are being found in all religions including "Christian" churches. There is no one religion called "New Age". New Age is a way of thinking that has 3 basic values:

1.) God is in everything and is everything. Pantheism — There is no distinction between creature and creator. "All is One and One is All". We are all made up of the same substance — a spiritual substance. There is no God as a separate entity — the whole universe is a God.

New Age teaching is nothing more than Eastern religions (namely Hinduism) that has been "Americanized" for Americans to accept.

2.) Humans are made up of the same spiritual substance. Since the whole universe is God, and we are made up of the same substance, we are God. All man's solutions can be found within. There is unlimited potential in man.

3.) Since there is no separate God there is no one to be accountable to. There are no absolutes or boundaries. This means there is no sin. There is no need for reconciliation between us and God. We are to learn to merge with the universe and find the god inside of us. When the whole world learns to do this it will be the "Age of Aquarius".

This teaching is as old as the Garden of Eden. This is the same lie told to Eve by Satan (Gen.3:5), ". . .you will be like God". New Age teaching tells people that you are God and you need to learn how to let it out.

## Other Teachings

1.) Reincarnation. It is believed that as we find the god inside of us and let it control our lives, we will evolve into an ascended Master. This is a person who no longer is confined to a physical body - Spiritual Evolution.

2.) Channeling. The process of receiving information from an ascended master, a spirit, or higher consciousness, on the other side of the physical realm. This is usually done from a trance. This does work!! People often do get in contact with people from the other world. The Bible calls them demons. Many people are becoming demon—possessed as a result of these trances. This practice is condemned in the Bible as the practice of being a medium.

3.) Stress Reduction/Meditation Techniques. These are techniques to reduce stress by learning to blank out our mind or visualizing some beautiful scene. These techniques are introductory lessons on how to go into a trance. Satan has disguised them as scientific experiments.

Meditation according to the New Agers is blanking out your mind. This is one of the oldest occult methods used to ask demon spirits to come in. This is a counterfeit to Biblical meditation. Biblical meditation is actively thinking on the Word of God or the attributes of God. You never allow your mind to go to blank. The Word is full of filling your mind with scriptures or the characteristics of God.

4.) Visualization. If you picture yourself doing something for long enough it will become reality. It is believed you can create your own reality this way. The Bible clearly states we are not God and do not have supernatural powers unless He chooses to do it through us. We do not have the power to create our own reality by thought.

Imagination and having visions is given by God. But we have to realize it has to be submitted to God and used for His glory not our own ends.

## Other Topics of New Age Teachings

New Age language even sounds Christian:

- “Jesus was a son of God” — But we can all be sons of God.
- “The Fall” - Man forgetting that he is incarnate God
- “Atonement” — Means we are already in union with God, who is equated with our “highest level of consciousness”.
- “Spirituality” — a return to the “divine self” within.

Crystals are counterfeit imitations of the Urim and Thummin. Everything Satan does is a counterfeit.

Ex 28:30	Worn in the breastplate
Numbers 27:21	Consulted God by

Yoga — imitations of eastern religions in the name of exercise

Astral Projection — It is Real? It's harnessing demons. We can go into the spiritual realm too as Christians, but only when God decides too. We never go on our own. It is strictly forbidden.

Modern Babylon's - One World Religion - could be the New Age Theology

## What Can Christians Do Against New Age Theology?

- 1.) Read and study your Holy Bible so you will be knowledgeable of God's Word and invulnerable to New Age distortions and unholy claims.
- 2.) Put Jesus first in your life and make soul-winning for Christ your top priority.
- 3.) Confront and fight New Age apostasy wherever you find it, understanding that Jesus is Lord and that He will prevail. Use prayer as both a resource and a powerful vehicle to ward off God's enemies. Jude 1:3,4; James 4:7; 5:20; II John 10,11
- 4.) Reach out in Christian love to individuals in the New Age Movement, many of whom are confused, hungry for spiritual things, and searching for truth. Show them that Jesus Christ is the answer and that He loves them.

# The Secular Humanist, New Age and Christian World Views

	<b>Secular Humanist</b>	<b>New Age</b>	<b>Christian</b>
<b>God and the world</b>	Universe is self-existent, no God	God is the world, pantheism	Creator/creation distinction
<b>Nature of God</b>	God is a superstition	God is impersonal/amoral	God is personal/moral
<b>Nature of world (cosmology)</b>	Matter/energy. atomistic	All is spirit/consciousness, monistic	Creation of God upheld by God, interconnected but not monistic
<b>Epistemology (Basis for knowledge)</b>	Man is measure of all things, reason and science	Man is all things, truth within	Truth revealed in the Bible
<b>Ethics</b>	Autonomous and situational (relative)	Autonomous and situational (relative)	Based on the revelation of God's will, absolute
<b>Nature of Humans</b>	Evolved animal	Spiritual being, a sleeping God	Made in the Image of God, now fallen
<b>Human Problem</b>	Superstition, ignorance	Ignorance of true potential	Sin—rebellion against God and his law
<b>Answer to Human Problems</b>	Reason and technology	Change of consciousness	Faith in and obedience to Christ
<b>History</b>	Linear but chance	Cyclical	Linear and providential
<b>Death</b>	End of existence	Illusion, entrance to next life (reincarnation)	Entrance to either eternal heaven or hell
<b>View of Religion</b>	Superstition, some good moral teaching	All point to the One (syncretism)	Not all from God, teach different things
<b>View of Jesus Christ</b>	Moral teacher	One of many avatars (periodic manifestations of God-guru)	The unique God-Man, only Lord and Savior

# Lesson 10 - Common Characteristics of Cults

1.) All cults have parts of their religion based on something in addition to the Bible, Some may use the Bible plus something else. Others may not use the Bible at all,

Cults are all typified by extra-Biblical revelation. This revelation may be another book or special “revelation” given by a leader.

- Mormons value the Book of Mormon over the Bible
- Followers of The Way revere the writings of Paul Wierwille.

WHENEVER THE BIBLE IS NOT THE FINAL AUTHORITY PEOPLE ARE AT THE WHIM OF WHATEVER MAN IS LEADING THE CULT

Cults often quote the Bible wrongly for their own purposes. These quotes are usually easily rebuked when sound textual, historical, and grammatical study is done. i.e. Rev. 7:4-8 / 144,000 Jews / Basis of Jehovah’s Witnesses

2.) Cults either deny the deity of Jesus Christ or His Humanity. Jesus Christ is always viewed in an unbiblical perspective.

- Some claim Jesus did not have a real physical body.
- Some teach that Jesus was an example of man who achieved godhood, an example for us all to follow.
- The Jehovah’s Witnesses and The Way remove the deity of Jesus.

The Bible teaches that there is one God, and that the one God is three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was 100% God and 100% man.

3.) Most cults claim that their group is the only way to “Heaven”. This produces an exclusiveness about the group often accompanied by severe pressure to avoid anything not a part of the group.

Cults capitalize on people’s desire to be a part of a group and demand extreme loyalty from them for their acceptance. Some cults like the Unification Church and Hare Krishna, require a rejection of your past and family. Cults often require extreme financial giving by it’s members. Financial exploitation is common while the leaders live in luxury.

4.) Good works, deeds or actions are required to achieve “salvation”.

*Eph. 2:8—9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. . .not as a result of works, that no one should boast” causes cults great problems.*

There are two biblical passages we can use to test for biblical accuracy of someone’s belief:

A.) I John 4:1-3 A true Christian is one who can confess that Jesus Christ is God and came in the flesh.

B.) II Peter 2:1-3. False prophets deny the Master (Jesus), often lead immoral lives, and exploit the people Financially.

Judgment against a false prophet is outlined in II Peter 2:4—22 (esp. 21).

