

Buddhism and Christianity - COMPARE & CONTRAST:

The Buddhist religion is unique in itself were Buddhists do not worship any gods or God.

- Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) never claimed to be divine, and Buddhists reject the notion of any supernatural power.

*Buddhists believe that the universe operates by natural law.

*Life is seen as consisting of pain: pain in birth, sickness, death, and continuous sorrow and despair.

*Most Buddhists believe a person has hundreds or thousands of reincarnations, all bringing misery.

- The Buddhist believe that the desire for happiness is the cause of a person's reincarnation and the mission in life is to let go of all desires.

*The goal of a Buddhist is to purify one's heart and to let go of all desires in order to stop the cycle of reincarnation.

*It's origins are from Hinduism, but Buddhists believe they have the answer to break the cycle of reincarnation, where Hinduism is not as confident in the breaking of the cycle of reincarnation.

*A Buddhist person must abandon all sensuous pleasures, all evil, all joy and all sorrow in order to attain this break of desire.

- Buddhists are to follow a list of religious principles and intense meditation

*This type of meditation is not a prayer to focus on god but it is more of self-discipline.

*A focus on getting your Chi in line (Chi = life force...)

*Through dedicated meditation a person may reach Nirvana -- "the blowing out" or release of the flame of desire.

Buddism Compared/Contrasted to Christianity:

The existence of a personal creator and Lord is denied by Buddhism. **However, Christianity believes in a personal creator and each may have a relationship with the creator, Jesus. - Colossian 1:15-23**

Buddhism believes the world operates under natural law & power and **Christians believe that there is a divine order to the world. - Genesis 1 & 2, Colossians 1:16, Revelations 4:11**

Some in Buddhism deify the Buddha and worship other gods as well. **Christianity is clear that a personal God exists but He is to be the only object of worship. - Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 43:10, 44:6, Matthew 4:10**

Buddist believe that through a blowing out of yourself, freeing you from desire, will you break the cycle of reincarnation. **Christianity says that a relationship with God through belief in the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ on the cross is what allows people to go to heaven. This only comes when someone completely trusts in what God has done for us in the person of Jesus Christ. - Hebrews 10:10, Colossians 1:22, Romans 4:23-25**

There is no such thing in Buddhism as sin against a supreme being. **In Christianity sin is ultimately against God and affects man and this world. - Romans 3:23, Romans 8:7-8, Psalm 51:4**

According to Buddhist belief, the human life is not consider to have much worth, having only temporary existence. Life is understood in such a way in getting rid of all desire (good and bad) and not placing any value on this life on earth and not to believe there is any eternal soul to a person. **In Christianity people are of infinite worth, made in the Image of God, and will exist eternally. - Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:13:16, John 6:51, I John 2:17**

The human body is a hindrance to the Buddhist while to **the Christian it is an instrument for glorifying God as well as God will restore the body of those who commit their lives to HIM so that they can be in HIS presence forever. - Genesis 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:19, I Corinthians 15:42-44**

The Buddhist believe that the ultimate goal is to reach *parinirvana*, which is s the final nirvana, usually understood to be within reach only upon the death of the body of someone who has attained complete awakening (*bodhi*) or the complete blowing out of all desire. **However, Christians believe that belief in Jesus Christ's sacrificial work on the cross will save them for the penalty of their sin, which is death, complete separation from God. Therefore belief in Jesus Christ will allow people to be with God forever in Heaven. - John 3:16, Romans 3:23-24**

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