

Hinduism– What they believe.

1) **Summary Information**

- a) Founded 1500 BC currently with 1 billion. Worldwide, 1.3 mil. US
- b) Very broad Eastern beliefs and culture primarily from Northern India. Currently 80% of India is Hindu. Also found in Nepal, Indonesia, South Africa and the Caribbean.
- c) No single founder. It evolved from historic religious traditions.
- d) Two Major Groups :
 - i) Philosophical Hinduism – traditional Hinduism
 - ii) Popular Hinduism is really a cultural identity focused on the caste system
- e) Hinduism has been the basis for other Eastern false teachings :
 - i) Sikhism
 - ii) Buddhism
- f) Western Hinduism has manifested itself in beliefs such as :
 - i) Transcendental Meditation (TM)
 - ii) New Age movement

2) **Authority** – many conflicting scriptures are considered divinely inspired by various groups of Hindu's

- a) Vedas – most recognized Hindu scriptures.
- b) Hundreds of other named writings.

3) **God** – many concepts of – an impersonal Brahman

- a) Brahman – the unchanging reality of the universe disguised in a physical reality that is not real.
- b) Pantheistic (all is god, all is divine)
 - i) Developed from a Polytheistic view.
 - (1) Multiple gods or components of a single god.
 - (2) Some believe in up to 33 million different gods.
- c) Monism (all is one, both mind and matter) – the Impersonal and Absolute (Brahman)
- d) Considered an IT not a person.
 - i) God can also live in nonhuman objects such as trees, rocks animals, etc

Hinduism– Why what they believe is wrong.

1) **Summary Information**

- a) Hinduism is the foundation of most Eastern religions of today even though it is denied by some.
- b) Hinduism has so many conflicting scriptures and splinter groups it is difficult to identify specific doctrinal beliefs.
- c) The belief that all is one, which includes both man and all other living things, has blended with Western environmentalism and evolutionism to add mystical support to extreme environmentalism and other New Age occult beliefs (ex. power from symbols such as crystals)

2) **Authority** – “We believe the Bible, as originally written, is the inspired, infallible, authoritative and inerrant Word of God and is supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.” GPBC Doctrine Statement.

3) **God** – Monotheistic – one God who is

- a) Omniscient (all knowing)
 - i) John 21:17b Lord, you know all things.
- b) Omnipresent (everywhere)
 - i) Jeremiah 23:24a Can anyone hide in secret places so that I can not see him?
- c) Omnipotent (all powerful)
 - i) Jeremiah 32:17b Nothing is too hard for you.
- d) Sovereign
 - i) 1 Tim. 6:15b God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- e) Eternal
 - i) Rev. 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

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- 4) **Triad** gods who make up the Brahman are :
 - i) Brahma (male) – Creator
 - ii) Vishnu – Preserver
 - iii) Shiva – Destroyer
 - b) Popular Hinduism has millions of lesser gods / goddesses and extremely idolatrous
 - c) Superstition, fear, occultism, demon worship and possession are also part of Popular Hinduism.
- 5) **Sin**– no recognition of sin and moral guilt. Sin is an illusion. We will all eventually become part of god.
 - 6) **Man**– we are a training ground for the soul which is eternal.
 - a) There are many other worlds like our own where the moral law and the law of karma is in place.
 - b) The world is an illusion, all things are really one. It is a great game played by god.
 - c) Man is not valuable nor are humans accountable to god.
 - 7) **Salvation**– focus on an escape from life to the Impersonal All. Like a drop of water merging into the ocean, as the soul dissolves into the Universe.
 - a) No belief in Jesus as deity or resurrection or return.
 - b) Reincarnation (also called transmigration) – constant cycle of death and rebirth.
 - i) What you return as is a direct result of your Karma (can be animal, or man)
 - ii) Karma – build up of past experiences (from this and past lives) which can be both good and bad.
 - (1) Ones thoughts, words and deeds have an ethical consequence in establishing one’s future existences.
 - c) Salvation comes in being able to escape the cycle of Reincarnation.
 - i) One must realize his individual soul is identical with the universal soul. This is done through meditation (Transcendental Meditation / Yoga) and one of three paths...

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- 4) **Trinity**– Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - a) 2 Cor. 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 - b) Note Satan again trying to mimic God with a false Trinity called a Triad.
- 5) **Sin**– Biblical-Christians believe that everyone sins and is in need of a Savior.
- 6) **Man** – For Hinduism, if the world is an illusion then...
 - a) We and the dirt are equal. Removes moral values. Individual identity is lost.
 - b) No basis for love or human compassion
 - c) No individuality
 - d) Little human choice or freedom as karma controls everything.
 - e) Little motivation for science, hospitals, schools, etc as a culture.
- 7) **Salvation** – Grace alone, Faith alone, Christ alone.
 - a) “It is only through accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior that one can receive eternal life in Heaven. Salvation and eternal life in Heaven is available to anyone who acknowledges in their heart that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins, rose bodily from the grave and then asks Him to forgive them of their sins and save their soul. Once a person has been saved they cannot lose their salvation.” GPBC Doctrine Statement.
 - b) Hinduism supports :
 - i) A works theology based on TM / Yoga meditation, ceremonies etc.
 - (1) These forms of meditation are not in any way similar to Christian prayer as the focus is on the inner self rather than on God.
 - (2) The effort is to limit the physical world and not to draw on God’s power to be an example to others.

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- (1) Knowledge (Juana Yoga)– listening to the sages and scriptures and meditation (turning inward).
 - (a) Mantra – repeating the same phrase over and over again.
- (2) Devotion (Bkakti Yoga) – focus on prayer and devotion to a more personal god.
- (3) Correct Works (Karma Yoga) – perform ceremonies, sacrifices, pilgrimages and other good works
- d) Yoga (yoke with god) and TM are :
 - i) At the introductory level - physical exercises that focus inward, attempting to restrict / eliminate external stimulus in favor of the inner consciousness.
 - ii) At more advanced stages – seeking to become one with the universe by transcending the individual self and the boundaries of the physical world, to diffuse into the Impersonal All.
- 8) **After Physical Death** – continuous reincarnation (thousand’s) until one realizes that his soul is part of the universal soul thereby uniting with the Impersonal All (Brahman).
 - a) Nirvana – not a place but a state in which the individual self is lost and oneness with Brahman is attained.

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- 8) **After Physical Death** - two places a person can go
 - a) Heaven – Mat. 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”
 - Hell – Mat. 25:41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Witnessing to a Hindu – from love not from theology.

Focus on the fact that the Hindu scriptures are not consistent with each other in beliefs. The Bible, even though made up of 66 books, written over a span of 1500 years by over 40 authors is very consistent, lending credibility to the inerrant word.

Focus on the joy we have in trusting our Father vs the concept of Reincarnation headed toward the Impersonal All.

Both Christians and Hindu’s believe in the concept of John 4:24, that God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Hindu’s believe in a moral code which dictate if their next life will be better or worse than their last. Biblical Christians also believe in a moral code, handed down from God through Scripture. We too believe that our actions on this earth will (establishing a personal relationship with Christ) will determine the condition of our next (and final) existence.