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A Call to Follow Christ

Conscience can Discern the Truth

Do you believe that God is Holy? If your answer is “yes”, then this is “yes” to Christianity and “no” to all other religions, since it is only in Christianity that God is holy. In eastern religions, the devil is in god’s own nature, and in Islam, it is Allah who has corrupted Satan and created sin in humankind. So, these gods cannot be holy.

Do you believe that God must be the source of all certainty? If your response is “yes”, then it is “yes” to Christianity and “no” to all other religions, because the dualistic nature of gods in other religions has made them unable to provide assurance to their followers. If you ask a follower of Christ, “Are you saved?” The response will be, “Yes, of course”, whereas in all other religions, no one is certain of his/her present and future spiritual position.

Do you have a holy relationship with the real God? Do you want to have fellowship with God and be with Him from now until eternity? Do you want to be identified with God and be His salt and light among the nations of the world standing for His perfect peace, love and justice? If your response is “yes”, therefore, it is necessary for you to search first for the real God, understand Him and then commit yourself to Him and get into a living relationship with Him.

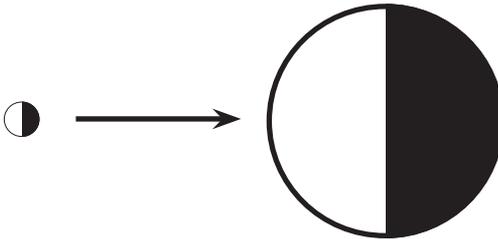
Do you believe that the random life in world philosophies will provide a bright future for you? If your response is “no,” then follow Jesus.

Your conscience is the only part of your being which is capable of discerning the truth. Listen to your conscience, distinguish the truth from falsehood by reflecting on these concluding words and decide which path you ought to follow.

Gods Made in Humanity’s Image

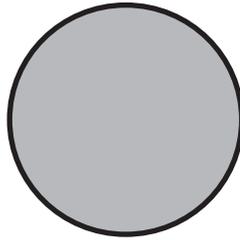
Gods who are the sources of sin and spiritual darkness are impure gods. An impure god cannot be a real God but a man-made image, a mixture of light and darkness. How can such a god be trusted? In fact, a god with this characteristic cannot exist.

In **Hinduism**, people are taught to cherish desires in their hearts and meditate on these gods in order to be absorbed in or join them. However, people are not aware that their own spiritual position is better than their gods. If we show a Hindu’s spiritual being with this sign ◐ and Brahman with the larger circle below, we will be able to understand why a shift from the position of human to god is both dangerous and irrational. Humanity, as a little manifestation of a great god, has a fairly small amount of darkness compared to that god. In light of this comparison, why would someone wish to have a shift from a relatively bad position to an extremely worse one?



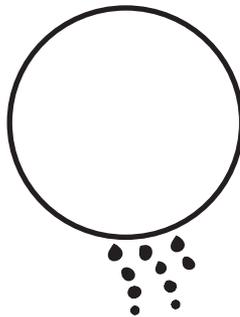
Hindu God
(The Source of Impurity)

In **Theravada Buddhism** god and everything else is the creation of the mind and is not real. If this is the case, Buddha's advice cannot be real as it is the product of his own mind. It contains much uncertainty and confusion.



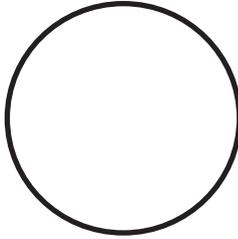
God in Buddhism
(Product of Mind)

In **Islam**, though Allah is called holy and pure, he is described as the creator of sin in Satan and in human beings. This dualistic doctrine does not present Allah as just and holy. How can the Holy God want people to be sinners? If Allah has created people sinners and unrighteous, he cannot require them to be righteous. However, as previously mentioned, purity cannot inspire impurity. It is impurity that begets impurity.



Allah
(Creator of Impurity)

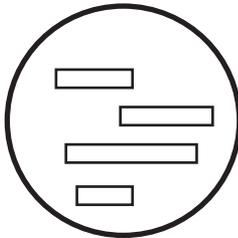
In **Christianity**, God is holy and pure. From the beginning, His creation resembles His nature. He cannot create sin nor have partnership with sin, nor with sinners. Sin entered into people through Satan's temptation, separating them from God. People are in need of a Savior as they are unable to save themselves from the captivity of Satan. God, as the source of all purity, provides a clear path for people which leads to salvation.



Pure God (Jesus)
(The Absolute Source of Purity)

The Heavens Compared

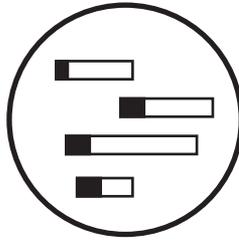
In Christianity, people have to be completely purified in order to enter heaven. If we illustrate a person as a rectangle and heaven as a circle, heaven in Christianity can be portrayed as follows;



Heaven with Purity

In other religions heaven is not immune to sin. For example, Islam believes that if the righteousness of a person outweighs his unrighteousness he will then enter heaven. Therefore, it

is unnecessary for the complete purification of humanity as illustrated below:



Heaven with Impurity

The above diagram shows that darkness (sin) has entered paradise (heaven) through humankind. There is no paradise with black spots of sin in it. Such a paradise does not equate with the holiness of God. We know that darkness can in no way exist in a pure heaven. A heaven with impurity cannot be real. Heaven, by definition, is the place of absolute purity and perfection. It is the dwelling place of the Holy God. It is a place for those who have allowed the Holy God to completely drive Satan out from their lives and release them from his dominion.

Why then does Allah allow Muslims, who are not purified and do not believe in complete purification, to enter paradise (heaven) and have partnership with him? If Allah is pure, how can he have partnership with the unpurified?

The answer is obvious. Allah is not pure—he has partnership with sin.

How is Good and Bad Weighed?

How can it be that other religions compare good and bad in order to determine which outweighs the other? What good acts can outweigh bad acts such as murder or rape? Can giving your wealth to charity remove the effect of your crime on victims or their families?

By breaking a human heart, you have also broken God's heart, as He created humankind for Himself and loves them with His

whole being. You cannot win God's heart with your so-called good deeds unless you allow God to renew you so that you are no longer a threat to society. It is only through God that this transformation is possible. This, in turn, delivers you from all self-centeredness, destroying the transgressions of your mind and heart, releasing you from their bondages. This supernatural transformation results in the absolute justice, love, and purity of God to you and renews you completely in all dimensions of your life. It places the love of God into your heart, creating a faith that says without the absolute love of God you are nothing, thus expelling the whole notion of weighing good and bad. As Paul, the disciple of Christ, says, "*When perfection comes, the imperfect disappears*". Or to put it in other words, "When good (Christ) comes, bad (Satan) disappears":

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I have become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have prophecies, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so as to move mountains, and do not have charity, I am nothing. And though I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and though I deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, I am profited nothing. Charity has patience, is kind; charity is not envious, is not vain, is not puffed up; does not behave indecently, does not seek her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil. Charity does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth, quietly covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Charity never fails. But if there are prophecies, they will be abolished; if tongues, they shall cease; if knowledge, it will be abolished. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when the perfect thing comes, then that which is in part will be caused to cease (1 Corinthians 13:1-10).

The theories of salvation in all other religions are impractical according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ since they hold the notion that unpurified and imperfect humanity can enter a perfect heaven, or paradise. The heaven of a holy God cannot be receptive toward men and women who are still slave to sin

in the life on earth. In no way can a trace of darkness be found in a holy God's heaven. In Christ, a person must be completely purified and cut off from his relationship with Satan prior to entering heaven. This proves that salvation and freedom in Christ is a perfect salvation.

The Salt and Light of the World

A purified person, the person whose relationship with Satan is completely annulled, can play a significant role and become a good spiritual, moral and ethical example of truthful living before others. A person with such characteristics is only found among the followers of Christ.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ claims that peace and love come from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith, which encourage understanding and affirm confidence (1 Timothy 1:3-7). It maintains that the church of Christ can make the manifold wisdom of God known to the nations of the world (Ephesians 3:7-10).

Why would the followers of Christ be chosen for such a great task? The followers of Christ, unlike the followers of all other religions, have a pure God and Savior, a pure heaven, a purified life and a certain and perfect salvation and thus they provide a good example for life among all the nations. In Christianity, life is centered on and led by purity, whereas in other religions impurity is the source of life. Gods in other religions are impure in their nature, so too are their paradises. They have instructed their followers to rely on their own impure human strength to achieve purity. But the fact remains that impurity cannot and does not lead to purity.

The Bible provides some unique characteristics of Christians that set them apart as the salt and light of the world:

1. The church (the followers of Christ) is purified of sin, unchained from the dominion of Satan and have approached God with freedom and confidence through faith in Jesus Christ

(Ephesians 3:11-12). So the followers of Christ have been clothed in real freedom and can proclaim it to others.

2. The wisdom that has been given to the church comes from God and it is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and sincerity. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness (James 3:17-18). So the followers of Christ have received their peace-loving wisdom from God, the source of absolute love. Through Christ, they have been reconciled to God, transferred from the kingdom of hostility into God's peace-loving kingdom. As they are the children of peace they can make peace with other nations and can call for the world to be reconciled to God and to each other (Colossians 1:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

3. The church is rooted and established in the love of Christ and therefore derives its name from the Holy God (Ephesians 3:15, 17). It has tasted God's righteousness and kissed His peace (Psalm 85:10). The followers of Christ, unlike all other philosophical and religious groups, are not established in human strength. They are, instead, established in the holiness of God whose love is absolute and unconditional.

For these reasons, the Bible calls the followers of Christ the salt and light of God for the world (Matthew 5:13-14); the salt that cleanses hearts from false values, beliefs and behaviors in order to preserve a good and righteous relationship with others; and the light that unveils the destructing values of ungodly beliefs in order to lead hearts and minds to the source of absolute love, justice and holiness.

Isn't it beautiful to be clothed with these characteristics? The key is "understanding". The knowledge of God produces a sincere heart with full assurance that leads people to the Light and to a life of peace with one another.