

Ministering To Buddhists

Buddhism

The Differences Between Buddhism & Christianity:

1. The Nature of God

Buddhism:

- Most forms of Buddhism are non-theistic (no personal God).
- Ultimate reality is impersonal — Nirvana is a state, not a being.

Christian Response:

- The Bible reveals a personal, relational, loving God who desires fellowship with His creation.
- Without a personal God, there's no true source for love, morality, or purpose.

Scripture:

Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-3, 1 John 4:8

“God is love” — love requires a personal being.

2. The Problem of Sin

Buddhism:

- Human suffering is caused by desire and ignorance, not sin against a holy God.
- The goal is to extinguish desire through self-effort and enlightenment.

Christian Response:

- The root problem is sin, which separates man from God, not just desire.
- Sin cannot be overcome by self-effort; only Jesus can save.

Scripture:

Romans 3:23, Isaiah 59:2, Titus 3:5

3. Salvation and Grace

Buddhism:

- Salvation (nirvana) is achieved through personal discipline, meditation, and moral effort over many lifetimes.

Christian Response:

- Salvation is a gift of grace, not something earned.
- Eternal life is offered now through faith in Jesus — no reincarnation needed.

Scripture:

Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16, Romans 6:23

4. The Reality of the Soul

Buddhism:

- Teaches anatta (no-self); the self is an illusion — there is no permanent soul.

Christian Response:

- Each person has an eternal soul made in the image of God.
- The soul has value, identity, and destiny.

Scripture:

Genesis 1:27, Matthew 10:28, Ecclesiastes 12:7

5. The Afterlife

Buddhism:

- Belief in rebirth/reincarnation until enlightenment is achieved.

Christian Response:

- The Bible teaches a linear afterlife — death is followed by judgment, not reincarnation.
- Eternity is spent either with God or separated from Him.

Scripture:

Hebrews 9:27, Luke 16:19-31, Revelation 20:11-15

6. The Uniqueness of Christ

Buddhism:

- Respects Jesus as a moral teacher or enlightened one, but not as divine.

Christian Response:

- Jesus is the Son of God, the only Savior, and the resurrected Lord.
- No one else has defeated sin and death.

Scripture:

John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Colossians 1:15-20

7. Hope and Relationship

Buddhism:

- Offers peace through detachment and self-negation, but often lacks a sense of personal hope or eternal joy.

Christian Response:

- Christianity offers a personal relationship with a living God and the hope of resurrection and eternal life in His presence.

Scripture:

Romans 5:1-2, 1 Peter 1:3-4, Revelation 21:3-4