

Ministering to Hindus

Hinduism

The Differences Between Hinduism & Christianity:

1. The Nature of God

Hinduism:

- Belief in many gods (polytheism), or sometimes one impersonal divine force (Brahman).
- Gods may take on many forms (avatars), such as Krishna, Vishnu, or Shiva.

Christian Argument:

- The Bible teaches monotheism: One eternal, personal, and holy God who is distinct from His creation (Isaiah 45:5, Deuteronomy 6:4).
- God is not an impersonal force but a loving Father who desires relationship (John 3:16).
- The idea of multiple gods or manifestations contradicts God's self-revelation through Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

2. The Problem of Sin and Salvation

Hinduism:

- Sin is often seen as ignorance or bad karma.
- Salvation (moksha) is achieved through works, self-realization, meditation, rituals, and escaping the cycle of rebirth (samsara).

Christian Argument:

- The Bible teaches that sin is rebellion against God, and no human can earn salvation through works (Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Jesus alone provides salvation through His death and resurrection, offering grace, forgiveness, and eternal life (Romans 6:23).

3. Reincarnation vs. Resurrection

Hinduism:

- Teaches reincarnation—a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth based on karma.

Christian Argument:

- Hebrews 9:27 – “It is appointed unto man once to die, and then the judgment.”
- Christians believe in resurrection, not reincarnation—eternal life is granted once, not through repeated lifetimes (1 Corinthians 15).
- Reincarnation offers no assurance of salvation, but Jesus offers assurance now (1 John 5:13).

4. Jesus Is Unique

Hinduism:

- May accept Jesus as a great teacher, guru, or even an avatar—but not the only way to God.

Christian Argument:

- Jesus claimed to be the only way to the Father (John 14:6), and proved His deity through resurrection (Romans 1:4).
- Christianity is not just about Jesus' teachings—it's about who He is: God in flesh, Savior of the world (John 1:1, Colossians 2:9).
- Placing Jesus alongside other gods contradicts His exclusive lordship.

5. Karma vs. Grace

Hinduism:

- Karma is the law of cause and effect—you reap what you sow, across lifetimes.

Christian Argument:

- Karma is transactional and never-ending, offering no hope of true forgiveness.
- Christianity offers grace—undeserved favor—through Jesus.
- Romans 8:1 – “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

6. Impersonal vs. Personal God

Hinduism:

- Often teaches that the divine is impersonal (Brahman), and individual identity is eventually absorbed into the “oneness” of existence.

Christian Argument:

- God is personal—He hears, speaks, loves, and reveals Himself.
- God created individuals with purpose and value and offers a relationship, not absorption (Jeremiah 29:11, Revelation 21:3).

Conclusion: The Gospel Offers What Hinduism Cannot

- Assurance of Salvation
- Forgiveness of Sins
- A Personal Relationship with God
- Eternal Life with God, not just escape from suffering