



Counterfeit Christianity

CHRISTIANITY IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

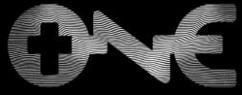
- We live in a postmodern world where Christianity is sometimes treated as just one religion among many
- Although we want to R_____ the beliefs of others, we do not want to V_____ them

COUNTERFEIT AND FOREIGN CURRENCY

- **The way to detect a counterfeit is to study the authenticate**
 - When we know the authenticate really well we can easily spot a fake
 - It is not worthwhile to study all other religions because there are too many to know
- **A Counterfeit pretends to be what it is not**
 - It tricks you into valuing something that is not actually valuable
 - Currency is only valuable because it is accepted or backed by a governing authority
 - A counterfeit fools you into putting your trust in a religion that is not validated by God in heaven

TOP 10 THINGS THAT ARE UNIQUE ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

- **The most important unique thing about Christianity is Jesus Christ**
- **Every religion has a positive view of Jesus Christ**
 - All major religions identify Jesus Christ as a good prophet
 - The question is if He is a good prophet then do you believe what he says is true
 - His claim to be God is clear in the scriptures
 - So if he is a good prophet then He must also be God
 - He is either L_____, L_____, or L_____
 - (C.S. Lewis calls this the Tri-lemma)



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- **What people believe about Jesus is the most important distinction**
 - All conversations begin and in with the person of who Jesus is

- 1. **V_____ B_____**
 - God came and dwelt among us
 - there is no other world religion that can boast of the fact that its leader was born of a virgin

- 2. **The I_____**
 - instead of us trying to get to God or to become a god, God lowers himself, puts on sweat glands and a skin suit and comes down to dwell with us

- 3. **The D_____ of Jesus Christ** and so no other major world religious leader or founder if you will ever made a claim to say that they were God or equal to God
 - He and I and the father are one
 - He also said in John 8:58 he said that before Abraham was I am
 - On several occasions Jesus demonstrated his authority to forgive sin only God can forgive sin
 - Jesus accepted the worship from other people that should have only gone to God
 - Stilled the storm
 - Raised the dead
 - Walked on water
 - Healed the sick and the lame
 - Gave sight to the blind
 - Cast out demons

- 4. **Jesus Christ D_____ for Our Sins**
 - The substitutionary atonement refers to Jesus Christ dying as a substitute for sinners.
 - The Scriptures teach that all men are sinners (Romans 3:9-18, 23).
 - Jesus Christ died in our place when He was crucified on the cross.
 - We deserved to be the ones placed on that cross to die because we are the ones who live sinful lives.
 - But Christ took the punishment on Himself in our place—He substituted Himself for us and took what we rightly deserved.
 - “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

- 5. **Jesus R_____ Again**
 - Every single other religious leader is dead

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- Jesus Christ died on a Friday but three days later he resurrected himself rose from the dead and now he is ascended at the right hand of the Father
 - You can find the body of every religions leader that ever lived but Jesus Christ
6. **P_____ Relationship with God** and what I mean here is that in all
- He is Imminent: Not distant far-off transcendent
 - In other religions you can't know God
 - God is near to those who call upon his name and
 - he comes to live and dwell within us and
 - take up residence with us inside of us
 - through the power of the Holy Spirit
7. **Salvation By F_____ not by W_____**
- in all of the other religions the goal is to try to reach up and somehow attain or appease God
 - in Christianity there's no way for you to ever reach God
 - Other religions are about rules & regulations
8. **Inerrancy of S_____**
- Scripture is without error
 - Written by 40 different people most of whom did not know each other
 - Written over a sixteen hundred year period
 - Yet they all agreed on everything that is in the scriptures
 - There are 66 books all without any error
 - One central message
 - Written on three different continents and
 - There is not one single contradiction can be found in the scriptures
 - **I would rather trust in a book that was written by 40 people with a perfectly unified message than to place my faith in a book that was written by one man or woman**
9. **Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy**
- We see prophecy after prophecy that was fulfilled with perfect accuracy
 - Prophecy that predicted the place of Jesus birth
 - The type of death that he was going to die (hung on a tree) was predicted 700 years before he ever lived
 - The virgin birth predicted and prophesied 700 years
 - No other religious book can boast that it has a 100% accuracy track record in fulfilled
10. **Historicity**

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- The truth claims of the Bible can be proven through archeology
- The stories in the Bible, unlike the stories in other religious books have been substantiated over and over through archeology
- The characters in the Bible are not fictional figures they are real
- Archaeology continues to provide tangible evidence for exactly what the Bible records.
 - Egypt's invasion of Israel (1 Kings 14:25);
 - the Assyrian siege of Lachish (2 Kings 18-19);
 - the trade relations between Israel and Sheba (1 Kings 10);
 - the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem;
 - and the reigns of Kings Omri, Ahab, Uzziah, Hezekiah, Ahaz, Jeroboam II, and Jehoiachin (1 and 2 Kings)—all are recorded in the Bible and all have been confirmed by archaeology.
 - Along with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, one of the most significant finds of the 20th century, was decisive proof of the reliability of the Bible's manuscripts.
- The Bible is not a book of morals, origin stories and poetry. **It is historically accurate**