



Christianity vs. Hinduism

What Are the Tenets of Hinduism

- Origin of Hinduism - people living across a river Sindhu - Hindus
- Some say it's not a religion - its way of life—(Sanatana dharma).
- Monothic pantheism
- Belief in one universal soul - Brahman. It's the universe and everything in it.
- Belief in individual immortal soul - atman. When you die, the soul (atman) takes a different form or body which is determined by what you do in your current life
- Belief in karma - actions. Either good or bad. Actions from past affect current and current affects future
- Belief in moksha - goal is to get back to Brahman and free from cycle of death and life...unreal to real.
- Belief in Vedas - equivalent of our bible

What do Hindus believe about Jesus?

- Jesus is one of the deities
 - Through rigorous spiritual practice, one can realize his own universal "god-consciousness."
 - Jesus did the same
- You and I are the same beings
- Jesus is one of the ways of salvation and not the only way
- Jesus is the W____ god
- A lot of Missionaries tried to change culture which offends Hindus...
- They see Christ as a W____ god and to worship him means leaving all the high valued tradition for someone who is less sophisticated than their deities.
- So when you ask a Hindu to convert to Christianity, it means giving away their people, tradition etc.
- Hindus call Jesus
 - A yogi: One who achieves union with the universal soul (i.e. "I and the father are one..)
 - A Guru ..they respect him
 - An avatar (one of 330 m_____ deities). He cannot be the one and only

Christianity vs. Hinduism**The cultural differences that really set Hindus apart from Christians**

- Hinduism does not have one founder or core doctrine that can be referenced. The religion is an assembly of religious, philosophical and cultural ideas and practices that originated in the country of I_____
- Due to the fact that Hinduism does not require followers to accept any one idea, the religion is much more cultural rather than creedal
- It is imperative to have an understanding and respect for their religion
- W_____ is an idea of celebration for Christians (i.e. weddings) but for them it's a color for widows (mourning)
- Vertical lines - vishnu , horizontal lines - shiva
- Diet - some are vegetarian, some eat non- vegetarian and even the one who is not vegetarian skips eating on certain days
- In India, you can look at what people are wearing, at the markings on their heads, necks, and wrists, and at the outside decoration of their homes to determine which religious community they belong to
 - Ex. Bindi anklets
 - Ex. astrology
- Indians take a bath in the Ganges river- it's not sins that are washed, it's bad karma going away
- It is important to show the uniqueness of Christ and let the Holy Spirit work through the other details

The Consequences of Converting to Christianity

- Rejection from own family, relatives, many face constant ridicule
- Depending upon the fellowship and acceptance of the church they worship, they may face varying degrees of confusion, lack of clarity on their new found faith.
- The more they understand the Biblical truth, the better they grow in their new found faith
- Once strong in faith, they will be more zealous and committed to the new found Savior and faith more than any of the 'traditional' 'generational Christians'
- They face anti conversion laws
- Even police officers could threaten a pastor who has converted

Sharing the Gospel with Hindus

Ask them questions to help them understand their own faith

- Would you tell me what you love about Hinduism and why you are excited to be a Hindu?

Christianity vs. Hinduism

- What parts of Hinduism are the most difficult for you to accept or practice?
- What do you base your view of God on?
- Do you believe all religions/paths lead to God? Why or why not?
- What do you think happens after we die?
- What do you believe about Jesus Christ?
- Do you think there's a difference between a "religion" and the "relationship" with God that Jesus talked about?

Identify common areas of belief they can relate to

- Desire to seek Salvation - my God, the Most High God, offers His people *moksha* during this lifetime to all His people who follow Him & forsake other gods
- Reincarnation - Emphasize how Jesus came back to life in the same body – still with the scars from the nails on the cross – to prove that He was God over physical death and He is above the reincarnation cycle
- Historical facts-We are not sharing just stories to make a point, but historical events.
- Concept of spiritual realm - They will agree this
- Introduce the God of the Bible is an experiential & relational God
- When we explain we have salvation in Jesus, it's important to share how salvation breaks us free of the cycle of life and death
- The thought of God making a sacrifice to show His love for His people is foreign and revolutionary
- Try to build a relationship with those you are sharing with before you share this truth so that they may be more likely to receive it
- Hindus don't care if Krishna, or Rama actually existed
 - They don't care about history as opposed to Christians who put their faith in a historic faith (historic avatar and not cosmic avatar)
- God who punishes SIN but there is a God who forgives SIN
- Talk about unique of Christ and do not defame their gods.
- Acceptance and significance comes from the love of God
- Represent Christ well
- Om Asatoma
 - Om Asato Maa Sad-Gamaya |
 - Tamaso Maa Jyotir-Gamaya |
 - Mrtyor-Maa Amrtam Gamaya |
 - I am the truth (sath) - John 14 :6
 - I am the light (Jyotir) - John 8:12
 - I am the life (amrtam) - John 14:6