

Coexist – Can Everybody Be Right?
Hinduism: Karma, Dharma and the Beatles
1 Peter 3:15 (page 841) and Selected Scripture
Sunday, October 10, 2010 **Frank Mascaro**

My goals for this sermon series is that:

- We will gain a basic understanding of the beliefs of others
- We understand the differences between other beliefs and Christianity
- We will be better equipped to share Christ with others (1 Pet 3:15)

The basic tenets of Hinduism:

- God is an impersonal force – Brahman
 - *Pantheism* = pan – all + theos – God
 - *Polytheism* = polys – many + theos - God
- *Humanity* is an extension from the being of the Divine
- Humanity's *problem* is ignorance
- The *solution* is liberation from ignorance and illusion
- The *means* of “salvation” is to seek awareness of one's unity with the divine through self effort
- The *result* is to merge into the cosmic Oneness where the individual disappears

The basic tenets of Christianity

- God is an eternal and personal Being (Gen 1:1; Isa 43:10; 45:5,12, 18, 22; Jer 31:3; Matt 11:28)
- *Humanity* is created in God's image to respond to God and others (Gen 1:26-28; 2:7, 15-17,18, 21-24)
- Humanity's *problem* is moral rebellion to God's holiness (Gen 3:1-13; Rom 3:10-18, 6:23; Eph 2:1-3)
- The *solution* is reconciliation with God (Rom 5:10; 2 Cor 5:19-21; Col 1:13-14)
- The *means* is through the finished work of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12; Heb 9:27, 10:10; 1 John 2:2)
- The *result* is eternal fellowship in a loving relationship with God (John 14:1-4; 1 Cor 15:50-57; Rev 21:1-5)

Thinking it Through...

Can you identify one or two significant distinctions between the beliefs of Hinduism and those of Christianity? Which one(s) stood out to you? Why?

What new insights did this comparison bring you? Explain.

Will you tell someone this week about something God showed you concerning this subject? If not, why not?

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

Hinduism and Christianity Contrasted

	Hinduism	Christianity
God	Impersonal	Personal
Humanity	An extension of the Impersonal Reality – Brahman	Created in the image of the Eternal God, who is other than man
Man's Problem	Ignorance	Sin – moral rebellion
The Solution	Liberation from illusion and ignorance	Forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with the Personal and Holy God
The Means	Detaching from self and becoming aware of one's unity with the Divine through self effort	Repenting of sin and trusting in the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ
The Result	Merge into the Oneness; the individual disappears	Eternal fellowship with God; fulfillment in a loving relationship with God