

Coexist – Can Everybody Be Right?
Buddhism: The “Do It Yourself” Religion
1 Peter 3:15 (page 841) and Selected Scripture
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The basic t e n e t s of Buddhism:

- *God*: generally d e n i e s the existence of a p e r s o n a l God
- *Humanity* is i n s i g n i f i c a n t and i m p e r m a n e n t
- Humanity’s *problem* is s u f f e r i n g due to our d e s i r e s
- The *solution* is escape s u f f e r i n g by obtaining e n l i g h t e n m e n t
- The *means* of “salvation” is by acknowledging the f o u r noble t r u t h s and through s e l f - e f f o r t by following the e i g h t - f o l d p a t h. (see on back)
- The *result* is to terminate s u f f e r i n g by attaining N i r v a n a, the extinguishing of s e l f.

C o m p a r i s o n of Buddhism to Christianity:

- *God* is a s e l f - e x i s t e n t, p e r s o n a l, and c h a n g e l e s s Being (Gen 1:1; Ex 3:14; Psm 139; Jer 31:3; Heb 13:8; Jas 1:16-17)
- *Humanity* has s i g n i f i c a n c e and has p e r m a n e n c e (Gen 1:26-28; 2:7, Matt 6:25-26; Eccl 3:11; 1 Thess 4:13-18)
- Humanity’s *problem* is s i n against G o d (Gen 3:1-13; Psalm 51:3-5; Rom 3:10-18, 6:23; Eph 2:1-3)
- The *solution* is f o r g i v e n e s s of sin and r e c o n c i l i a t i o n with God (Job 36:13-16; Mk 5:32-34; Eph 1:7; 2 Cor 5:19-21; Col 1:13-14)
- The *means* is through the s u b s t i t u t i o n a r y w o r k of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-14; Heb 9:22,27, 10:10; 1 John 2:2)
- The *result* is eternal f e l l o w s h i p in a loving r e l a t i o n s h i p with God (John 14:1-4; 1 Cor 15:50-57; Rev 21:1-5)

Making the connection...

- What is one thing I learned about Buddhism that I didn’t know or understand before today?
- What struck me as the most significant difference(s) in Buddhist belief compared to Christianity?
- Do I feel better equipped to share what I believe with someone who was Buddhist after understanding more about their belief? Why or why not?

The four noble truths of Buddhism:

- Suffering exists
- Suffering comes from attachment to desires
- Suffering ceases when attachment to desires cease
- Suffering is eliminated by following the eight-fold path

The eight-fold path of Buddhism

<i>Three Qualities</i>	<i>The Eight-fold path</i>
Wisdom:	1. Right Understanding
	2. Right Thought
Ethical Conduct:	3. Right Speech
	4. Right Action
	5. Right Livelihood
Mental Discipline:	6. Right Effort
	7. Right Awareness
	8. Right Meditation

Buddhism and Christianity

	Buddhism	Christianity
God	Denies the existence of a personal God	A personal God who is self-existent and changeless
Humanity	Humanity is impermanent and insignificant	As God’s creation, in His image, man has significance and permanence
Man’s Problem	Man suffers because we desire what is temporary, causing us to continue in the illusion of individual self – no concept of sin	Sin – moral rebellion against God
The Solution	To cease all desire and realize the non-existence of self	Forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with the personal and Holy God
The Means	Vary, but generally through self-effort/self-reliance by following the right path to achieve nirvana	By receiving God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by human or self-effort
The Result	To enter Nirvana where the ego, the illusion of personal self, is extinguished	Existence as an individual surviving death as we enter eternal fellowship with a loving personal God in heaven