

A Brief History of Judaism

Three B r a n c h e s of Judaism

- Orthodox
- Conservative
- Reformed

The Comparison of the Beliefs of Judaism and Christianity

Who is G o d?

- *Judaism*: God is o n e (Deut 6:4)
- *Christianity*: O n e God in t h r e e persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Gen 1:1-3; Matt 3:16-17; 28:19; John 14:26; 16:7-10)

Who is J e s u s?

- *Judaism*: Jesus is a f a l s e prophet, not G o d nor the S o n of God, nor the M e s s i a h of Israel
- *Christianity*: Jesus is G o d in the flesh who came to r e d e e m humanity (John 1:1-3, 14; 20:28; Titus 2:13; Luke 19:10)
 - A s p r o p h e s i e d in the Old Testament
(Isa 7:14; 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; Isa 53:3-6; Ps 22:14-18)
 - From J e s u s Himself
(John 8:57-59; 10:30-33; Matt 15:24; Mark 14:61-62)
 - The t e s t i m o n y of other J e w s
(1 John 1:1-3; Titus 2:13; 1 Pet 1:18-21; Col 1:16-20; 2:9)

What is humanity's problem?

- *Judaism*: Man is not sinful by nature but can repent and find forgiveness.
- *Christianity*: Man is born in sin, is sinful by nature and is in need of reconciliation with God.
(Ps 51:5; Eph 2:1-4; 2 Cor 5:18-21)

What about the Scriptures?

- *Judaism*: The 39 books of the Old Testament are the only authoritative Word of God.
- *Christianity*: The 66 books of the Bible are the authoritative Word of God (Old and New Testaments)

How is salvation attained?

- *Judaism*: By self-effort, by repentance, prayer, obeying the Law and God's mercy
- *Christianity*: By faith in the finished work of *redemption* by Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins
(1 Cor 1:29-31; Rom 3:21-24; Col 1:14)

What is the result?

- *Judaism*: A physical resurrection and judgment where the righteous will live with God and the unrighteous will suffer.
- *Christianity*: All people will be resurrected and either enter heaven or hell based on faith exercised in the finished work of Jesus, not in their own merits
(John 3:36; 1 John 5:11-13)

Making the connection...

What is one thing I learned about Judaism that I didn't know or understand before today?

What struck me as the most significant difference(s) in Jewish belief compared to Christianity?

Do I feel better equipped to share what I believe with someone who is Jewish after understanding more about their belief? Why or why not?

Judaism and Christianity

	Judaism	Christianity
God	There is only one God; no acknowledgement of the Trinity	One God – one in essence, three in person: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Humanity	All have sinned but humans are not born with a sinful nature – no original sin or sinful nature	Is sinful by nature – original sin is a reality
Jesus	Not divine, nor the Son of God, neither is He the Messiah of God. Some view him as a false / good teacher, others as a blasphemer	God's perfect Son, holy, fully God and fully human, died for sinful humanity and was raised from the dead
Savation	Salvation is not developed as a concept as much as the presumption of a Jew's standing with God	Forgiveness of sin obtained by God's grace
The Means	Through sacrifices, repentance, prayer, obedience to the Law and a little of God's mercy which provide a good standing with God	Through faith in the finished redemptive work of Jesus Christ
The Result	At the resurrection of the dead God will reward the good and punish the wicked. Israel restored and the nations are subdued to live under Messiah's peaceful rule and reign	Depending on one's faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, either eternal heaven or eternal hell