

Brief Comparison of Major World Religions

Topic / Question	Buddhism	Hinduism	Islam	Christianity
Who is God?	Probably none. Although statues of Buddha are commonly 'worshipped', this is an inconsistency, mostly perpetuated by people who do not understand Buddhism.	Thousands. There are a few common ones, Vishnu the Preserver, Shiva the Destroyer, Brahma the Creator. There is also a concept of the totally one God who appears in thousands of forms.	There is only one God and Allah is his name.	There is only one God, revealed in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He has revealed himself to us in the human form of Jesus. God's Holy Spirit is constantly at work in the world. The core characteristic of God is Love.
Who am I?	It doesn't matter. Just live well.	A drop in the ocean of time. When you really understand truth, you will realise this question is nothing.	You can either be a willing servant of Allah, or an infidel. (A faithless one, doomed to destruction.)	A precious, valuable eternal spirit, made in God's own likeness, and the object of his eternal love.
How do I approach God?	You don't, because he doesn't exist. What you need to do is to contemplate yourself through contemplating a holy person like Buddha.	You must learn to worship 'it' by a range of ways, finally realising yourself and becoming a part of the divine, through a process of accumulating good karma.	Submit to the teaching of the Prophet. Follow the Five Pillars.	He has approached you , in the coming of Jesus. He invites you to accept his forgiveness, and become part of his family.
What is my Destiny? What is the Purpose of life?	To defeat suffering.	Strive to lift self out of this level. Ultimately to join Ultimate Bliss as your self disappears and you merge into Ultimate Being.	To worship Allah and submit to his will.	To love and worship God and to enjoy him forever.
How do I live my life? What is right and wrong?	Follow the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Noble Path. There are no absolutes.	There is no absolute right and wrong. It is all relative. Consider only the end (the purpose) of your actions.	The Koran gives this information in precise detail. It must be followed precisely. There are clear absolutes. The alternative is eternal punishment.	Jesus is the demonstration of truth and righteousness. The 10 Commandments are a foundation for absolute right and wrong. God's character is absolute goodness.

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<p>What about the Founder?</p>	<p>Siddhartha Gautama was a wealthy Hindu prince who desired more from life than riches. He abandoned Hinduism and sought ultimate truth.</p> <p>He wrote about suffering and how to overcome it, and designed the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Noble Path.</p> <p>He is dead.</p>	<p>There is no founder. Its origins are ancient.</p> <p>But all of its ancient holy men and writers are dead.</p>	<p>The Qur'an makes various contradictory statements about who the first Muslim was. Some verses claim that the prophet Muhammad was the first Muslim. For example, "He hath no associate. This am I commanded, and I [Muhammad] am the first of the Muslims." S. 6:163</p> <p>The Qur'an also states Moses was the first Muslim. "And Moses fell down senseless. And when he woke he said: Glory unto Thee! I turn unto Thee repentant, and I am the first of (true) believers." Sura 7:143.</p> <p>At other times Adam, Abraham and Jesus (all born before Muhammad) were declared to be the first Muslims. Muhammad lived in the 7th Century AD, and he wrote the Qur'an at that time.</p> <p>Muhammad is dead.</p>	<p>Christianity emerged from Judaism, but Christianity as a unique faith commenced with Jesus. The western world measures its history (AD and BC) according to Jesus' birth.</p> <p>However, Christianity claims that its truth transcends all of time, through the eternal life of Jesus. Those who lived and died before Jesus or after him, are all able to be saved through his life and death. In this sense, Christianity is timeless.</p> <p>Jesus is alive, having once died but having been then resurrected, according to Christians. There is compelling evidence, historically speaking, of an actual resurrection.</p>