

I. Intro

“The most important thing about a man or woman is what they believe about _____.”

II. Categories of Religions

(1) **Monotheism – Teaches There Is _____ God.** (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam)

(2) **Polytheistic – Teaches There Are _____** (Hinduism, Eastern Religions, New Age, Greeks & Egyptians).

(3) **Pantheism – All is _____, _____ is in all** (Buddhism, Classical & Zen, Animism).

Unpack world religion from four perspectives:

1. Facts
2. Beliefs.
3. Agreements, Disagreements
4. Questions.

III. Islam (MONOTHEISTIC)

“Islam” means “ _____ to God”, and followers are “Muslims”

Facts

There are more than _____ Muslims globally, largely in the Middle East, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

Beliefs

God is called " _____ "

Man is capable of sin, but he is _____ capable of pleasing God perfectly.

“Salvation” is _____. The pleasure of Allah – are achieved by religious observance.

Agreements, Disagreements.

- Is the Bible God’s Word?
- What is the purpose of God's revelation?
- Did Jesus really die on the cross?
- What About the Trinity?

Questions

Key opening: *grace*

IV. Hinduism (PANTHEISTIC)

Facts

Hinduism does not offer the same insistence on being the _____ as other religions do and there is no eternally dominant or "correct" form of Hinduism.

Beliefs

There is no single Hindu idea of God. There is Brahman: “The _____,” the impersonal, all-embracing spirit, many lesser deities.

Hinduism is _____, because behind Hindu practice is the belief all souls are eternal and accountable for their own actions.

_____ is the debt of one’s bad actions for which one must atone.

Agreements, Disagreements

- Does History Matter?
- What Is God Like?
- What are the consequences of our actions?
- How Does One Become a Hindu or Christian?
- Who is Jesus?

Questions

Key opening: *grace*

V. Buddhism (POLYTHEISTIC)

Facts

There are about _____ Buddhists worldwide.

Beliefs

Buddhism has no omnipotent, _____ who exists apart from this or any other universe.

Buddhism teaches "Four Noble Truths"

1. To live is to _____
2. Suffering is caused by _____ (we allow ourselves to get attached to things)
3. One can eliminate suffering by elimination desire (to accept)
4. Desire is eliminated by following the eight-fold _____¹

Agreements, Disagreements

- Who is Jesus?
- What is the Problem of Man?
- Who Really Is God?

Questions

Key opening: *suffering, permanence*

VI. Don't All Religions Teach the Same Thing?

Different religions make very _____.

World religions do have *some* similarities on the level of _____. Yet even here you can see there is serious variance.

¹ : 1) right view, 2) the right intention, 3) the right speech, 4) the right action, 5) the right livelihood, 6) the right effort, 7) the right mindfulness, 8) the right concentration- Meditation.

VII. Is Jesus The Only Way?

(Isaiah 45:21, John 14:6, Romans 1:16)

1. Charge: Claiming Jesus is the Only Way Is Arrogant

Jesus' own words (John 14:6, John 17) and words of the disciples (Acts 4:12, Romans 6, etc).

2. Charge: Jesus Cannot Be the Only Way, Because Other Religions Would be False

The question then becomes why one religion is more true than another. No matter what belief system you adopt, you will be saying that your system is _____ and that the billions of people who don't accept it are _____.

3. Charge: All That Really Matters Is That People Sincerely Seek God

If sincerity were the test, virtually any delusion or 'sincere' mental persuasion would be _____.

VIII. What About Those Who Have Never Heard?

(1) All humankind is already under God's judgment because all men and women are sinful, morally accountable to God, and must give an answer to him.

(Romans 1, Romans 3, Isaiah 40, John 3, Acts 17: 24, Isaiah 64:6, Romans 2, Hebrews 9:27)

Humankind is soundly condemned to God's judgment because of 4 C's:

witness of creation

conscience within

communion in Adam and Eve in the Fall

personal commission of sin

(2) Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord GOD will be saved

(II Peter 3:9, Romans 5, Romans 10:13, Joel 2:32)

(3) Scripture includes examples of pagan men and women who trusted God *in faith* and were saved

- Hebrews 11
- Acts 10, Cornelius
- Joshua 2, Rahab
- II King 5, Naaman

Non-Christians who have heard the Gospel are without excuse.

Romans 10 says, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"