

Basic Comparisons Between Christianity and Buddhism

A basic comparison between Resurrection and Reincarnation is as follows:

Resurrection	Reincarnation
Happens only one time	Occurs many times, over and over
Into the same body	Into a different body
Into an immortal, glorified body	Into a mortal body
A perfect state	An imperfect state
The ultimate and final state	An intermediate state

A basic comparison between Heaven and Nirvana is as follows:

Heaven	Nirvana
Eternal soul	No soul
Live forever with God	Disappear into emptiness, extinction
Ultimate desires are fulfilled	Desires and ego disappear
Eternal glorified body	No body, nothingness

A comparison between Jesus Christ and Buddha:

Jesus Christ	The Buddha
Claimed to be God	Belief in God was not edifying
Made many prophecies	Made no prophecies
Performed many miracles	Performed no miracles
Crucified and rose on the third day	Died and was cremated
Is the Way, the Truth and the Life	Points to a false way
Jesus said, "Follow Me"	Buddha said, "Follow the dharma"
Jesus said, "I am the light of the world"	Buddha said, "Be lamps unto yourselves"

A comparison between Christianity and Eastern Religion (Buddhism):

	Christian	Eastern Religion
Final Goal	Heaven (God)	Nothingness (void)
Purpose	Worship of God	Merge with emptiness
Means	Faith in Christ	Human endeavor
Sphere of Thought	Through reason	Beyond reason
Power	By God's grace	By human effort
Experience	Objective	Subjective
Immediate State	Concentration on God	Relaxation, emptiness

Basic Comparisons Between Christianity and Buddhism

A comparison between Theravada Buddhism and Christianity:

Theravada Buddhism	Christianity
Buddha claimed no special relationship with God, was non-theistic	Jesus did claim a special relationship with God (John 3:16; 6:44; 10:30; 14:6, 9)
Buddha said he pointed to the way	Jesus claimed to be the way (John 14:6)
Buddha said to eliminate suffering and pain was to eliminate desire	Jesus said that the solution was to have right desires (Matthew 5:6)

A comparison between Mahayana Buddhism and Christianity:

Mahayana Buddhism	Christianity
There were and are many bodhisattvas.	There is and has only been one Son of God, Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 19:7).
Motivation for the bodhisattvas was compassion for the world. Their compassion comes from themselves since the "emptiness" of nirvana has no feelings, only extinction.	Jesus is the unique demonstration of the love of God for the world (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10).
The physical world is an illusion to be escaped.	The Bible teaches that God created the universe and that it was declared good (John 1:3; Genesis 1:31).
To overcome their sin (i.e., attachment to the self, ignorance, and desire, etc.) one has to endure the process of going through numerous lifetimes because of karmic energy.	The Bible teaches that Jesus was sinless from the very beginning and that he did not have to attain sinlessness (Matthew 27:4; Luke 23:41; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15).