

Confirmation Week 16 Homework Assignment (02/01/23)

Theme of the Week: Christianity in a Multi-Faith World

This week's class took a look at the entire Christian faith and how it relates to a world full of other religions. [We read a story book](#), [we looked at a tree mapping out all of the world's religions](#), and we watched a video that illustrates how religions have grown and moved geographically over time. Ultimately, we came to realize that we as Christians hold our beliefs, but those beliefs are part of a much larger truth. By having conversations with others about their religion and its history and beliefs, we can come to a deeper understanding about who God is.

Complete these two activities to explore this idea further. Answer questions with *at least* 2-3 sentences.

ACTIVITY #1: All the Kinds of Churches







1. [Watch this short video](#) outlining the geographical movement of religions over time and use the attached chart as well.
 - a. In the video, the United States is shown as purple (Christian). Is it fair to assume then that all people in the United States are Christian? Why or why not?

ACTIVITY #2: Inter-Religious Dialogue

1. Find someone who has different religious beliefs from you who is willing to talk about their faith (they could still be Christian (e.g. Roman Catholic, Methodist, Orthodox, Non-Denominational) or a different religion (Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, etc.)) and have a conversation with them to learn more about their faith, beliefs, and practices.
 - a. Who did you talk with, and what religion do they practice?

 - b. What are two similarities between your faiths/practices?

 - c. What are two differences between your faiths/practices?

	Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism	Confucianism
						
Followers Worldwide (estimated 2001 figures)	362 million	2 billion	820 million	1.2 billion	14.5 million	6.3 million
Name of Deity	The Buddha did not teach a personal deity.	God	Three main gods: Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva	God (Allah)	God (Yahweh)	Confucius (viewed by many as a god)
Founder	The Buddha	Jesus Christ	No one founder	Muhammad	Abraham	Confucius
Holy Book	No one book—sacred texts, including the <i>Dhammapada</i>	Bible	No one book—sacred texts, including the Vedas, the Puranas	Qur'an	Hebrew Bible, including the Torah	the <i>Analects</i> , the Five Classics
Leadership	Buddhist monks and nuns	Priests, ministers, monks, and nuns	Guru, holy man, Brahmin priest	No clergy but a scholar class called the ulama and the imam, who may lead prayers	Rabbis	No clergy
Basic Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons achieve complete peace and happiness (nirvana) by eliminating their attachment to worldly things. • Nirvana is reached by following the Noble Eightfold Path: Right views; Right resolve; Right speech; Right conduct; Right livelihood; Right effort; Right mindfulness; Right concentration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. • Jesus Christ was the son of God. He died to save humanity from sin. His death and resurrection made eternal life possible for others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The soul never dies, but is continually reborn. • Persons achieve happiness and enlightenment after they free themselves from their earthly desires. • Freedom from earthly desires comes from a lifetime of worship, knowledge, and virtuous acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons achieve salvation by following the Five Pillars of Islam and living a just life. These pillars are: faith; prayer; almsgiving, or charity to the poor; fasting, which Muslims perform during Ramadan; pilgrimage to Mecca. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. • God loves and protects his people, but also holds people accountable for their sins and shortcomings. • Persons serve God by studying the Torah and living by its teachings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social order, harmony, and good government should be based on strong family relationships. • Respect for parents and elders is important to a well-ordered society. • Education is important both to the welfare of the individual and to society.