

Elements of Faith	Historic Christianity	Buddhism	Hinduism
Supreme Being	One personal/supreme God Who is Creator & Lord of everything that exists. He eternally exists as Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Gen. 1; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19.	irrelevant.	Impersonal Ultimate Reality; or "The absolute" Major Triad: Brahma, Shiva, Vishnu.
Key Figures in History	Jesus, the Christ, of one essence with the Father Who came and took flesh from the Holy Virgin Mary. John 1:1-12; Matt 1:18-25	Siddhartha Gautama (who became Buddha, the Enlightened One) 563-483 B.C.	Avatars (deities in various form). Gurus are spiritual teachers.
Person of Jesus	Lord Jesus Christ is perfect in His divinity and perfect in His humanity, yet His divinity parted not from His humanity for a single moment nor a twinkling of an eye. True God of True God, who is the Lover of all humanity. Full and final revelation of God and His love. John 1:1-13	A teacher who may possess Buddhahood or Enlightenment. One among many, not unique	For some Hindus, Jesus was an Avatar or incarnation of God - one among many Avatars; a great spiritual teacher, a guru.
Work of Jesus Christ	Jesus was born, lived, and died in a given time and place as a unique historical event. He lived a sinless life and willingly died on the Cross as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity. He is Messiah (Christ), Lord and Savior. John 1:14-18; 3:16	Jesus was a great religious teacher whose teachings can be valuable today	Jesus was a great religious teacher whose teachings can be valuable today
Sources of Authority	+ Bible (Old & New Testaments). Unique, revealed, factual, accurate, and inspired Word of God. 2 Tim. 3:16-17. + Holy Patristic Tradition (especially of the Three Ecumenical Councils) + Divine Liturgy	Sutras; Tripitaka (the Three Baskets).	Vedas, Upanishads, Epics, Puranas, and a host of other sacred writings.
Doctrine of Humanity	Humanity is part of creation, but distinct from the rest of creation and from God. Human beings are created according to the image of God Every person is a unique, precious being of dignity and worth. Gen. 1:26-28.	One lifetime for each person, composed of skanda (parts), but many lives for the parts. Concept of anatta (no self) denies existence of a self beyond mental & physical attributes.	Divine eternal soul part of God or Ultimate Reality. Physical body has little worth.

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The Basic Human Problem	Sin: By their free will, human beings have chosen to sin against God, rejecting His nature, and pursuing a course of life that is opposed to His essential character and revealed law. Gen.3; Rom. 3:23.	The human condition is suffering, caused by attachment to things & the craving (desire) accompanying this attachment.	The human condition is samsara (the flow of reality in which souls are continually dying & being reborn). The present existence is an illusion; people are unaware of their oneness with God.
Solution to the Basic Human Problem	Salvation- restoring man back in communion with God. Process rather than event. Freedom from the guilt and power of sin - is God's gift of grace through Christ's sacrifice, we received the new nature received through baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit Eph. 2:8-9	Goal of life is nirvana to eliminate all desire of attachment, particularly by following the Eight-fold Path	goal of life is to gain release (liberation) from the cycle of reincarnation & to pass beyond illusion to become one with the divine (Ultimate Reality) by following the proper yoga (path or discipline)
Ethics (Value System)	Ultimate values for humanity are based on God's character and His Ten Commandments. Human beings are potentially good, but not inevitably good. They always need God's grace to renew their characters.	The Eight-fold Path stresses moral virtue, including right action & right vocation. Right conduct includes loving kindness, selfless giving to others, & efforts to alleviate human hurts.	Deeds are right if they produce good conditions; deeds are wrong if they produce harm to one's self or to the world in general.
Life After Death	Eternal communion with God (heaven) or eternal separation from God (hell). Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20-22	Possible attainment of nirvana (negation of suffering), a state of being that is realized through eliminating desire.	Cycles of reincarnation until union with or reabsorption into Ultimate Reality. The desired ultimate state of existence is moksha ("final release").