

## First Words

- There are approximately 1.2 Hindus in the world
- There are 700,000 + Hindus in the NYC Metro area

- A. To be a follower of Hinduism is to be part of one the \_\_\_\_\_ and most \_\_\_\_\_ religions in the world.
- Hinduism traces its origin back to 1500 B.C. in Asia
  - Initially it was a polytheistic, ritualistic religion that was family based
  - The mantras and rituals became so complex that eventually priests were needed
  - In around 600 B.C. the people revolted against this
  - Between 800-300 B.C. the Upanishads was written. It would be like our New Testament. It is also called the Vedanta – It expounds the idea that behind many gods stands one reality, the Brahman – an impersonal monistic force.
  - The concept of god developed further and included the idea of a personal god. Brahman personified is Ishvara
  - Ishvara became known through three manifestations called “Trimurti”
  - Brahman - the Creator, Vishnu -the Preserver, Siva – the Destroyer
  - Each personification of Ishvara has one Devi (divine spouse)
  - Further personification through 10 mythical incarnations of Vishnu called avatars
  - The Bhagavad- Gita tells the stories of these myths
  - The goal of Hinduism is Nirvana, being one with the Brahman
  - From early on in Hinduism the cow has been sacred with special powers
  - 330 million gods in Hinduism
  - Hinduism spawned Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism

B. To be a follower of Hinduism is to embrace these \_\_\_\_\_

1. The impersonal nature of Brahman – An impersonal Oneness. The Universe is continuously extended from the being of Brahman
2. The Brahman/Atman unity – In our true selves (the Atman) we are extended from and at one with the Brahman.

3. The Law of Karma – We are ignorant of our divine nature. We separate ourselves from Brahman and attach ourselves to ego etc. and become subject to the law of Karma, reap what you sow from lifetime to lifetime.

4. Samsara – Reincarnation – refers to the ever-revolving wheel of life, death and rebirth. We reap in this lifetime the consequences of actions in the past lifetimes

5. Moksha – The solution in Hinduism is to be liberated from the wheel. We do this by detaching from ego etc. and attaining to enlightenment

C. To be a follower of Hinduism is to seek \_\_\_\_\_

- The three paths to enlightenment - Nirvana
- Karma Marga – The way of action and ritual
- Jnana Marga – The way of knowledge and mediation
- Bhakti Marga – The way of devotion
- From humanity to deity through human effort - The goal is to lose one’s individual separate identity in the universal Self, the Brahman

D. To be a follower of Hinduism is to have these \_\_\_\_\_

- There are sects who worship Vishnu as the god of space and time
- There are sects who worship Shiva as the god of song and healing
- There are sects who worship Durga, the Divine Mother (goddess of motherhood)
- Submission to fate – Man is not outside but part of Brahman
- The Law of Karma – From good must come good, from evil must come evil
- Re-incarnation – Chain of rebirths through which individuals as they live virtuously can rise to a higher state
- The Caste System – determined by the Laws of Manu
- Yogas – The disciplines which enable us to control ourselves
- Dharma – the law of moral order which everyone must find and follow to reach nirvana
- Nirvana – The final stage reached upon the emancipation of the soul from the chain of rebirths

D. To be a follower of Jesus Christ verses to be a follower of Hinduism

1. Regarding one's view of God
2. Regarding one's view of the Bible and the Hindu Writings
3. Regarding one's view of sin and salvation
4. Regarding one's view of Jesus Christ

E. How should a follower of Jesus Christ view Hinduism?

1. As a pantheistic religion that distorts the revelation of God in creation  
– *Romans 1:19-23*
2. As a works-based religion that replaces grace with human effort  
– *Ephesians 2:8-9*
3. As a mystical religion the Christian is told to reject  
– *Colossians 2:18-19*

Why I am a follower of Jesus Christ and not a follower of Hinduism?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ over Polytheism – *Psalm 115:3-9*
2. \_\_\_\_\_ over Ignorance – *Romans 3:23*
3. \_\_\_\_\_ over Karma – *Romans 5:20-21*
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (regeneration) over Rebirths (reincarnation) – *John 3:3*
5. \_\_\_\_\_ over Nirvana – *Revelation 21:3-4*
6. Authoritative \_\_\_\_\_ over changing instructions – *John 10:35*
7. One path to God, \_\_\_\_\_, over many paths to gods – *1 Timothy 2:5-6*

Why I am a Follower of  
**JESUS CHRIST**



**NOT A FOLLOWER OF  
HINDUISM**

Presented by Pastor Dave Watson  
at Calvary Chapel