

DO WE WORSHIP THE SAME GOD?

Deuteronomy 5:4 ... "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"

In their desire to achieve peace, some believers agree to claims by people of other religions that "we worship the same god." Do we? Is the god of Islam, various cults, and other religions the same god Christians worship?

In today's verse, God declares there is only one true God, the Lord God of ISRAEL. False gods and religions emerged soon after the fall of Adam and Eve. Satan roamed the earth planting seeds of his own rebellion in the hearts of men, creating a desire to worship something other than the one true God.

We live in a copy-cat society. Henry Ford created the first mass-produced car, but many others copied it and produced similar looking cars. Levi Straus invented denim jeans, but other people copied and produced similar products. Cinnabon created what may be the perfect cinnamon roll, but someone reverse-engineered their recipe and now I bake cinnamon rolls that are similar. Our God created the earth and gave us hope through salvation, but other people followed by creating their own gods in the hope that they might be saved, too. Toyotas, Jag Jeans, and my cinnamon rolls might be decent substitutes, but they are not the same as the originals they copied. If you want to be saved from your sins and enjoy eternity in heaven, you need to follow the original, one true God, the Lord of God of Israel.

The primary distinction between our God and the gods of other religions, is Jesus Christ. No other religion, sect or cult accepts Christ as a member of the trinity and co-equal with the Father and Holy Spirit. No other religion accepts the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as the literal Word of God, but many add their own writings to the Bible for their own purposes.

If you have a non-Christian friend who claims you worship the same god, lovingly disagree. All other religions emerged after creation as defiant acts of rebellion and disobedience to our God, and more religions are still emerging today. Islam and numerous sects accept Jesus as a prophet or teacher, but reject him as God. In John 10:30, Jesus says: "I and my Father are one." And in John 10:16, Jesus says: "And other sheep [followers] I have which are not of this fold [Israel]; them also I must bring..." The other sheep are us, Gentiles. As a Gentile, you worship the God of Israel, having been adopted into God's family the Jews through your belief in Christ, and saved from your sins by his sacrifice.

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