

**Worldview Response Paper: Hinduism vs. Christianity**

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The worldviews that will be discussed in this paper are Christianity and Hinduism. We see there are big differences between these religions, and in turn can have a different turn out for

a patient who follows either religion. The main characteristics between these two religions is that Christianity follows Jesus and Hinduism believe in more than one god as well as nirvana. It is important to differentiate religions, because each patient can have beliefs and approaches that can determine their medical decisions.

In the religion of Christianity, Jesus is a prime example of who we need to follow. Jesus set an example of love and sacrifice on the cross and died for our sins. Due to his sacrifice, we are made free and are granted eternal life if we follow him faithfully. God shows time again, that He is with us, and He will not forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8). In this religion, God in this worldview is the trinity: the Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus was a person who came forth as the Son of God, to die for our sins and set a prime example of God.

There is no description that says who is God, but we know He can do all things. God is indescribable, and we cannot see Him. However, we know He exists through His good works and His creation. When God created the world and environment, He said “it is good.” This means, He made everything perfect. In terms of health and wellbeing, Jesus was a healer himself. He healed the sick, and the paralyzed. Medicine is seen a blessing, because “The importance of serving others is a common theme among major religions, and Christianity is full of the deeds of those who chose to help others” (Karani, R. 2017). There are mixed thoughts about healthcare and abortions, because life should not be ended when the Lord has started it.

Abortion is condemned from the point of view of a Christian, because the Lord guides His children. A child brought to this world and in a womb of a mother, should be taken care of. Care should be a priority teaching as a Christ follower. The Lord wants His children to be in good hands, and well taken care of. In the religion of Christianity, it is known that “If living, the child

had to have received that gift of life from God – the giver of all life – and God is actively sustaining that new life in His goodness” (Stanton, G. 2022).

In the Bible, it states that we are not our own. The Lord bought us at a price, and for that reason we must honor God with our bodies. Our bodies are temple of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us. This is important, because if we are a temple, we must represent the Lord through our body! This includes taking good care of our health, our mental health and our souls. We must represent God through our body, and this here shows that it is important to care for your health. To add, the Bible also says in Psalms 41:3, “The Lord sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.” God is there for His children, and He only wants the best for us. We can feel closer to God when we pray, fast and go to church services. It is easy to feel His presence if we leave things that do not benefit our spiritual growth, and we decide to seek Him wholeheartedly. We should care for our health, and of others. The Bible says we must love our neighbor, and we can see that we nurture the lives of others through the field of Nursing.

On the contrary, Hinduism is a religion that believes the bad things that occur to someone is due to bad karma. This religion believes in nirvana, which is used to symbolize the state of freedom. The mind is free from any unholy thoughts, including sadness and fear. Hinduism believes that there is more than one god, and they also believe in reincarnation after death. This term is called “samsara” and it is the thought that once someone dies, they are reincarnated to another body.

The world and environment for Hinduism is being dependent on the good karma, and doing good deeds so that their life is filled with goodness. There is no set person who founded this religion, and its origin can be quite complex. This religion is the oldest religion in the world, and it has many philosophies. Hindus also practice yoga, which is the interconnectedness of the

soul and body. For those that follow Hinduism, “there are four goals of life on earth, and each human being should aspire to all four. Everyone should aim for *dharma*, or righteous living; *artha*, or wealth acquired through the pursuit of a profession; *kama*, or human and sexual love; and, finally, *moksha*, or spiritual salvation” (Dehejia, V. 2007). In terms of health and wellbeing, Hindus believe that one must take good care of their body. However, they also believe that actions from their past life can bring consequences and can therefore affect their health. Hindus pray to images and statues, because this helps them associate to God in prayer or meditation.

In the Christian Bible, it says that “Whoever believe in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them (John 3:36). It also states in the Christian Bible, “Do not turn aside to idols, nor make molten gods for yourselves. I, the LORD, am your God” (Leviticus 19:4). These Bible verses show that Hinduism does not connect us to the one and only God. They have different beliefs than Christians, and in turn, do not serve us well. We must follow God, the Son and the Holy Spirit everyday of our lives. The Lord had sent His only Son to die in the cross for us, and there is no greater act of love than that.

To add, the Hinduism religion is one that originated in India, and it is not founded by a prophet, which is the opposite for Christianity who was founded by Jesus Christ. This religion “allows absolute freedom to the human reason and heart with regard to questions such as nature of God, soul, creation, form of worship and the goal of life. Hinduism does not lie in the acceptance a particular doctrine, nor in the observance of some particular rituals or form of worship” (Sivananda, S. 1999). There is no set doctrine one must follow if they are followers of the Hinduism religion. However, it is important to note that Hindu followers do believe in poly

gods, which are three. These are brahma: the creator, vishnu: the preserver and shiva which represents the destroyer.

The difference between Christianity and Hinduism is the God they serve and the life they live. Christians devote their life to serve God, in everything they do. This includes praying, fasting and meditating on God's word. There is only one God and that is Jesus Christ, the Father and Holy Spirit which are all one. On the other hand, Hinduism is a religion which serves poly gods, and they also believe in the state of nirvana and reincarnation. If a follower of Hinduism behaves well in this life, then his or her conditions in their next life will be better. This religion is one that believes in the saying, "you reap what you sow."

The nurse should provide care to these clients, respecting their religion and beliefs. The nurse can ask the patient what they feel more comfortable doing regarding their health. In terms of abortion, we learn that Christians will very likely decline the option of abortion if they are pregnant without planning. On the other hand, for Hindu followers will be considering their good karma and accept the bad karma that comes in their life; this can be regarding health as well. They can accept their diagnosis and not necessarily want intervention because they believe it is their fate. This is because they believe they have earned this bad karma from their past life. As a nurse caring for these patients, it is necessary to provide adequate interventions for the health of the patient while respecting their beliefs.

## References

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