

## 2.7A CHRSTIANITY AND OTHER RELIGIOUS GROUPS

This chart outlines some of the basic differences between Christian belief and some of the more prominent cults.

	Christianity	Jehovah's Witnesses	Latter-day Saints (Mormons)	Scientology	New Age Movements
<b>God</b>	One single god; Creator of everything; Trinity of Persons	Jehovah – the only true God	Supreme Being called Elohim; has a body of flesh and bones like us	We are all god-like eternal beings called Thetans	We are all gods.
<b>Jesus</b>	Son of God; truly God and truly human; born of the virgin Mary, died, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, will come again	A created being: son of God but not equal. Not resurrected but returned to Earth invisibly in 1914. God's judge.	A god; got a body from Mary and the Father. Visited the Americas after resurrection. Jesus and Satan are brothers.	Just an ordinary person, no one special. He was not an Operating Thetan but instead "just a shade above clear."	An "enlightened" teacher.
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	Third person of the Trinity. A Person (not an "it").	God's invisible active force, like electricity; not a being	Holy Spirit is pure spirit; a separate being from Elohim and Jesus. ..	Does not exist.	Doesn't exist. Universe has a life force.
<b>Trinity..</b>	Three Persons in One God, coexistent, coequal	A false idea	A false idea. They are three separate gods.	A false idea created by movies shown to our souls 75,000,000 years ago.	No such thing.
<b>Salvation</b>	Salvation comes through God's grace. Jesus lived a sinless life obedient to the Father and died so that our sins might be forgiven. We only have to accept that he did that for us.	Salvation is gained by works, by going door to-door. Inaccurate concept of sin.	2 sorts: (1) unconditional gives immortality in one of 3 heavens to all, (2) true salvation from good works and good life gives Godhood to Mormons only.	Freedom from reincarnation. Members work their way up through levels, learning more and more "stuff" and paying as they go.	Unity between one's self and the universe achieved by meditation, etc and blocks all negative thoughts.
<b>Hell</b>	Eternal exclusion from unity with God and those united in him. Awareness that one's own actions have brought this about.	Doesn't exist: those judged unrighteous will die and cease to exist.	A temporary spirit prison for some and permanent place of Satan (spirit son of God) and his followers	A myth.	A myth
<b>The Christian Church</b>	The People of God united in and with Christ, their Head	The only true Christians are Jehovah's Witnesses	Is in a state of general apostasy (abandonment of true faith)	Unofficially, something to be destroyed.	One religion among many; nothing special
<b>The Bible</b>	The Word of God. Inspired directly by God. God's Word in human words.	God's word. Have their own (inaccurate) version. Not understandable without JW study guides.	Not God's final revelation and not complete. Not all correctly translated by LDS. <i>Book of Mormon</i> plus its changes is Scriptural too.	Contains lies based on movies that were shown to our souls 75 million years ago.	A book.

<p><b>Unique aspects</b></p>	<p>Grace. The only religion to offer salvation as a free gift, and where God reaches down to become human because we can't reach God unaided due to our sinful state.</p>	<p>God's true and only name is Jehovah. Numerous predictions of Jesus' second coming; e.g. in 1914.</p>	<p><i>The Book of Mormon</i> has its own familiar spirit. Baptism for the dead.</p>	<p>The galactic ruler 75,000,000 years ago was Xenu. He used hydrogen bombs against his enemies. He was caught and is still alive today.</p>	<p>Reincarnation is a common belief.</p>
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