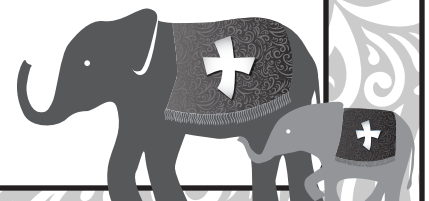


Comparison of Basic Beliefs: Buddhism and Christianity

	BUDDHISM	CHRISTIANITY
God	There is no god who has a personal relationship with his creation. There is only a belief that there is a “spiritual force” in the world.	God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He exists as one God in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is eternal, and He loves all people.
Jesus	Buddhism does not reference Jesus. Gautama Buddha, popularly known as the Buddha, was a man who lived in ancient India in the 5th-4th Century BCE. He never called himself “god”, but was a philosopher and a spiritual leader.	Jesus is God’s Son and He lived on the earth for about 33 years. He is part of the Trinity. He was a perfect man. He was also true God. He never sinned. He died on the cross and rose from the dead for the forgiveness of sins.
The World	Buddhists have no creator God. They have no explanation for the origin of the universe except that it just formed on its own.	The world was created by God. The details are recorded in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. There are many other references to creation in both the Old and New Testaments.
Sin	Buddhists believe in Karma which says that if they do good things, good things will happen to them. But if people do bad things, bad things will happen to them.	All human beings are born sinful and can not be perfect. This sin separates them from God. They need a Savior.
The Afterlife	Buddhists believe in a cycle of death and rebirth. They believe that after death, people are reborn into a new life on earth which might be better or worse, depending on their past life’s deeds. Buddhists attempt to reach a place of bliss called Nirvana, which is an end to suffering and rebirth.	At the end of life on earth, those who have faith in Jesus will live with Jesus in Heaven for all eternity. Those who do not have faith will be separated from God for all eternity.
Religious Texts	There is no one particular holy book of Buddhism. However the collected writings of Buddhist teachings is known as <i>Tripitaka</i> . The writers were “enlightened” teachers from the past.	The Bible



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