

Being a

WITNESS

to a Hindu

Understanding HINDUISM

Hinduism originated in the Indus Valley in modern Pakistan more than three thousand years ago, and is now the world's third largest religion behind Christianity and Islam.

Hindu society is based on a “caste” system, which ranks people by their occupational class: Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (soldiers, king-warrior class), Vaishyas (merchants, farmers, labourers, craftspeople), and Harijans (the “untouchables”). The higher the person's caste, the more that person is blessed with the benefits and luxuries life has to offer.

Hinduism encompasses a wide variety of religious beliefs, and has been influential in the foundations of other religions, such as Transcendental Meditation, Buddhism, and the New Age Movement.

Understanding THEIR BELIEFS

CONCEPT OF GOD

There are many gods in Hinduism, but the chief god is Brahman, an impersonal, universal soul. Hinduism is also pantheistic, seeing the universe as being god and god being the universe. There are three main gods: Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Shiva (the Destroyer). Under these gods legions of gods and demons are worshipped.

SOURCE OF WRITTEN REVELATION

The Sutras, the Vedas, and the Upanishads. (These books contradict each other.)

JESUS CHRIST

Some Hindus believe that Jesus originated from Krishna, born 14 centuries before Christ.

SIN

Hindus believe that sin is an illusion.

SALVATION

Salvation is achieved when man breaks away from the cycle of reincarnation and is absorbed into Brahman. The state of nothingness and peace that results is called Nirvana. This happens when the Hindu pursues salvation by knowledge, by devotion, and by works. Yoga is an attempt to reach oneness with their god through meditation. Hindus are Hindu by birth, not choice. An outsider can only become Hindu through reincarnation into a Hindu family.

AFTERLIFE

Hindus believe in reincarnation, called Samsara, which every living thing goes through until it reaches oneness with Brahman in Nirvana.

Referencing

BIBLICAL PASSAGES

EXODUS 20:26

Hinduism is a violation of the First and Second Commandments.

JOHN 14:6

Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.

JOHN 17:3

Eternal life is true knowledge of Jesus Christ, attainable only through repentance and faith.

ROMANS 3:23

All have sinned against God.

1 CORINTHIANS 15

This chapter deals in detail with the resurrection (not reincarnation).

2 CORINTHIANS 5:8

After death we experience conscious fellowship with Christ.

TITUS 3:1-7

It is impossible to earn salvation through good works.

HEBREWS 9:27-28

Man dies only once and is judged. Christ died to bear the sins of many.

1 JOHN 1:9

Hinduism knows nothing of forgiveness in its system, therefore pointing out forgiveness through Christ is powerful.

1 JOHN 3:4

Sin is not ignorance of, but the willful breaking of God's Law.

REVELATION 20:11-15

There is a literal hell for those who do not know Christ.

REVELATION 21:3

This verse illustrates the future that Christians have compared to the perceived future of Hindus.

Being a WITNESS

When witnessing to a Hindu, you can begin by asking the same simple question we do with any religious non-Christian: “What do you think happens after someone dies?” They will inevitably confess their belief in being reincarnated into someone or something else in the next life. You can then ask: “So if you are a good person, do you come back as something good?” “Yes.” You can respond by asking, “So, who’s in charge of giving out the new bodies?” This will lead into a conversation about karma. This basically means that if you do good things, then it will come back to you in this life or the next.

Next, ask: “How are you doing morally in this life?” They will likely respond by saying that they are doing very well. You can then jokingly say, “Well, do you mind if I ask you a few questions about morality to see whether you may come back as a king or a cockroach?”

He will likely say yes. “Do you think you’re a good person?” He will again likely say yes. You can then take the time to lead your Hindu friend through the Ten Commandments. After he confesses to being guilty under the Law, you can say, “You’ve admitted to me (and I’m not judging you) that you are a liar, a thief, a blasphemer, and an adulterer at heart. And because the Bible says that ‘It is appointed to man once to die, but after this the judgment’, there is no reincarnation so you’ll have to face God on Judgment Day – whether you believe He is a personal God or not. The Bible says that all liars will have their part in the lake of fire. They will end up in a place called “Hell”. Also, no thief, blasphemer, or adulterer will enter Heaven. Does it concern you that if you died right now and God gave you justice, you would end up in Hell forever?” They may say yes or

Additional RESOURCES

no. This is where you can share the message of the cross.

“Do you know what God did to rescue you from Hell and save you to Himself?”

“No.”

Begin the Gospel by saying, “God became a morally perfect human being and gave His life as a sacrifice for the sin of the world. We broke God’s Law (the Ten Commandments) but Jesus paid our fine on the cross 2000 years ago. He died and rose from the grave three days later and now if you repent of your sin and trust the Savior, God will forgive your sins and grant you everlasting life.”

You can then follow up your conversation with an appropriate resource on Hinduism.

PRINT

The School of Biblical Evangelism by
Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort

(Available at the Harvest London Resource Centre and online at livingwaterscanada.com)

WEB

www.christiananswers.net/evangelism/beliefs/hinduism.html

For more information on evangelism training with The Cross Current, visit:

www.thecrosscurrent.com

About

THE CROSS CURRENT

The Cross Current is a local missions ministry and outreach broadcast bringing glory to God's Name by unifying His Church in His Gospel and helping pastors equip all Christians under their care to be Christ's witnesses everyday, everywhere, to everyone, as one body serving in accordance with the various gifts He has given each.



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