

# CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS



## SERMON NOTES

Week 1 August 14, 2022

"Hinduism"

Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 6:7-8



### I. Introduction

- A. We can be better neighbors and love other people by \_\_\_\_\_ them better.
- B. Hinduism is often described as the most \_\_\_\_\_ of the major world religions.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ is the third-largest religion behind Christianity and Islam.

### II. Hindu Beliefs

- A. The Vedas (vay – duhz) are the primary sacred \_\_\_\_\_ of Hinduism.
- B. Hindus believe in a \_\_\_\_\_ true God they refer to as Brahman.
- C. Brahman is above all creation but he is also one with \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Similarities and differences

- A. There are a number of Hindu beliefs that share \_\_\_\_\_ ground with Christianity.
  - a. One supreme being.
  - b. God meets humans through incarnations.
  - c. Humans were made for kindness, compassion, love and good deeds.
  - d. A respect for life and a love for one's enemies.
- B. There are significant \_\_\_\_\_ between Hinduism and Christianity.
  - a. The nature of God.
  - b. The human condition and salvation.
  - c. What happens after death.

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *August 15-20, 2022*

## INTRODUCTION

Hinduism is the world's oldest religion with roots and customs dating back more than 4,000 years. Today, with about 900 million followers, Hinduism is the third-largest religion behind Christianity and Islam. Roughly 95 percent of the world's Hindus live in India.

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### Monday: Exodus 3:1-15

Hindus tend to believe that the one true God “is a life force, but not a personal being.” In this area, Hindus and Christians have some common ground, but also some differences in understanding. In what ways do you share with your Hindu neighbors the conviction that there is ultimately only one true God?

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### Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-13, 18-21

Hindus believe in spiritual knowledge that sets us free. That knowledge leads us to good works. Christians, too, believe in the importance of love toward others. In the Christian view, loving one another grows out of our understanding of the heart of the God of the universe. God loves us, John wrote, and that is the reason that we can love God and one another. Which people do you find it hardest to love as God loves them?

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### Wednesday: Romans 3:19-26

Hindus believe in the law of karma. Good karma is built up through good thoughts and deeds. Through this cycle of birth, death and rebirth more good karma can be built up until, finally, no bad karma remains. Christians believe that no one earns enough merit to deserve eternal life with God. God generously accepts everyone who seeks Him, based on grace, not merit. How can you allow the reality of your need for God's grace to shift your view of people of other faiths?

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### Thursday: Ephesians 2:1-10

Hinduism holds that our struggle is not with sin, but with ignorance. If we do bad things, even though we have God within us, it is because we do not understand. We need to gain knowledge. Christians believe that the significant changes in their lives were not something they had accomplished on their own initiative or strength. They were God's accomplishments. How open are you to letting God continue to shape the way you live even the “secular” parts of your life—driving, shopping, business activities, playing and watching sports, and the like?

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### Friday: Hebrews 9:24-28

Hindus believe in reincarnation. This essence of God that is placed within us begins its journey as a very simple life form through a cycle of deaths and reincarnations we progress up the evolutionary chain. Finally, after many lives, we are set free from the cycle of death and reincarnation. Christianity does not teach reincarnation. As the letter the Hebrews said plainly, “People are destined to die once.” Would you want to be reincarnated if it was possible?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Christians and Hindus share many truths in common. And yet at the heart of our two faiths are very different pictures of the human endeavor and our ultimate destination. As Christians, we are called to treat people with dignity, love, respect and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We don't have to be afraid of other people's faiths; and through listening to their stories, we might find ourselves becoming better Christians.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) understanding, B) ancient, C) Hinduism. IIA) texts, B) one, IIC) creation. IIIA) common, B) differences.*