

What is common?

A Presentation of MikeGhouse.Com - For Updates : MikeGhouse@AOL.Com

In a recent survey, 23% of the respondents said that Christians and Jews do worship the same God, but Muslims do not. However 59% said that all the three religions worship the same God. Indeed, all religions worship the same God. I hope to prepare a chart for all the 9 religions and invoke responses in one or two words to accommodate all the 9 columns on the same page. The original chart was produced by Beliefnet and ABC News.

Please email your opinion to: MikeGhouse@aol.com

	JUDAISM	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM	BAHA'I
God	One God	One God	One God	
Central Prophet	Moses	Jesus	Muhammad	Bahá'u'lláh
Scripture	Torah, Prophets, Writings and the Talmud (oral tradition and commentary)	Bible (Old and New Testaments)	Qur'an (God's revelation to Muhammad) and Hadith (Mohammed's sayings)	Kitáb-i-Aqdas (The Most Holy Book)
War	Peace is always preferable, but war in self-defense is considered obligatory.	'Just war' can be fought as a last resort; tradition of non-violent resistance.	War should be fought only in self-defense, within strict limits.	A thought of war should be opposed by a stronger thought of peace.
Divisions	Modern movements include Reform, Conservative, Modern Orthodox and Reconstructionist.	Many theological divisions and schisms: Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, numerous Protestant churches	Sunni-Shiite schism based on disagreement over Mohammed's successors; broad debate over Islam's role in modern society; little theological debate.	The Bahá'í Faith is and will remain one, united faith because of the "Covenant," which was revealed by Bahá'u'lláh.
Fundamentalism	Ultra-Orthodox Jews reject the secular world and live in strict communities.	Debate over literal meaning of the Bible; efforts to bring religion into daily life.	Return to "pure" Islam; rejection of secular culture; efforts to bring religion into daily life and create an Islamic state.	All Bahá'ís are called to obey all Laws and Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and "live the life" everyday.
Holy City	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	Mecca	Haifa and Akká (in Israel)
Jesus	A historical figure; not the Messiah.	The Son of God.	Highly respected as the second-last prophet before Mohammed.	A Prophet and Divine Messenger; the Son of God
Hierarchy	No hierarchy; rabbis are considered teachers.	Catholics and Orthodox have extensive hierarchy ; some Protestant branches have almost none.	No hierarchy; prayers are led by imams (teachers) who have studied the Qur'an.	No clergy. The Administrative Order consists of the Universal House of Justice, National Spiritual Assemblies, and Local Spiritual Assemblies
Idols & Images	Images and statues forbidden.	Images and statues allowed in some denominations, but not worshiped.	Images and statues forbidden.	Idols and images are not worshiped.
Charity	Tzedakah: 10 percent of income.	Tithe: 10 percent of income	Zakat: 2.5 percent of total wealth each year.	Huququ'llah (Right of God), which is approximately 19% of income after paying for the necessities of life.
Proselytizing	No proselytizing ; Jews must turn away would-be converts three times to ensure their commitment.	Conversion considered important in most traditions; Catholic and Protestant	Da'wa: Muslims should share their knowledge of Islam without trying to convert. Only God can	Teaching the Faith is the most meritorious duty. All Bahá'ís are called to share the Message of

		churches have missionaries.	bring someone to Islam.	Bahá'u'lláh with others.
Women	Men and women are equal in the eyes of God; traditional Judaism prescribes different roles for men and women. Orthodox men and women worship separately.	Men and women worship together. Some Protestant churches ordain women as priests. More...	Men and women are generally treated the same in the Koran, although women are oppressed in many Muslim cultures today. Men and women worship separately.	Women and men are equal in the sight of God. Women and men worship and serve together. Women should be educated as they are the first teacher of their children.
House of Worship	Synagogue	Church	Mosque	Temple or House of Worship
Main Day of Worship	Saturday	Sunday	Friday	A spiritual Feast is held every 19 days
Diet	Must keep "kosher": no pork or certain seafood; other meat to be killed by kosher method; separation of meat and dairy.	No dietary restrictions.	No pork; other meat should be prepared by the halal method. No alcohol.	No dietary restrictions regarding food. Alcohol and recreational drugs are forbidden.
Life After Death	No immediate life after death; life in the "world to come" after the coming of the Messiah.	Day of Judgment, followed by Heaven or Hell.	Day of Judgment, followed by Heaven or Hell.	The soul lives on eternally after physical death. Death is viewed as "more abundant life."
Burial	-	-	-	Burial (not cremation)
Mysticism	Kabbalah	Numerous mystical traditions	Sufism	
				Produced by Beliefnet and ABCNews.com

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We honor, cherish and respect every which way people have come to praise and worship the divinity, including but not limited to the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Sikh and Zoroastrian systems of belief.

If we can learn to accept and respect the God given uniqueness to each one of the 7 billion of us, then conflicts fade and solutions emerge. Respecting each one of God's creation is equivalent to honoring the divinity. We believe knowledge leads to understanding and understanding to acceptance and appreciation of people with a different point of view.

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