

We are left with Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. These two branches of Christianity have the problem correct. Every other religion on the face of the earth has the problem wrong, so we shouldn't even be going there. None of them know the first thing about human nature, so everything else they teach will never fit into place. **Reject** them.

So, truth can only be found somewhere within these two branches of Christianity. Let us examine them.

### ***Roman Catholicism***

Roman Catholics believe we are all born "evil," so they understand the problem correctly. But this problem is solved, in their eyes, by a priest simply splashing water in baptism. Easy.

After baptism, so Roman Catholics believe, we are no longer "evil." This is why they think it so important to rush a priest to a dying baby so it can be splashed in time. With regards sins after baptism, if we keep coming to mass and confession all our lives then all these sins can be removed by the priest pronouncing them removed when they occur. In other words we are under the church's control all our lives.

But, this means that, those who have been baptised are effectively the same as those who are supposedly born "good" or "neutral." But people are no different whether before or after their baptism. Splashing water by a priest does not remove "evil." A priest is a mere man. Therefore Roman Catholicism must be **rejected**. They had the correct problem originally, but have the wrong solution.

On top of this, Roman Catholicism is far too similar to Buddhism in many respects:

- Roman Catholic "meditation" is very similar to Buddhism – a withdrawing in of oneself from the world, emptying the mind.
- Both Roman Catholic and Buddhist monks and nuns hide away in single sex monasteries.
- Both religions are full of superstitious practices, e.g. Roman Catholics genuflect and cross themselves. Buddhists always have to walk around a stupa clockwise (never anti-clockwise) etc. etc.
- Both religions engage in money-generating scams that play on our emotions for dead relatives. Roman Catholicism believes that after death they all go to a place called "purgatory," and time for dead relatives there can supposedly be shortened by paying money to the church. We can also pay the church to buy "leftover" good works from great "saints" of the past to help them along too. Buddhists worship their ancestors. People pay money to a "living buddha" to give them "advice." People pay money for rituals for dead relatives. All such practices are pure evil, squeezing money out of poor people by telling them things about their dead relatives in the afterlife that nobody can possibly know.

Roman Catholicism has the original problem correct, but they solve it wrongly. It is also filled with so many other ridiculous things, therefore it must be **rejected**.

None of these religions we have come across so far can help anyone solve the fundamental problem of our being born "evil." So the rest of what any of them has to say is not going to help anybody in any way. All must be **rejected**.

So we are left with Protestantism.

### ***Protestantism***

They have the correct problem. We are all born evil. They have the correct solution. We are saved by grace through faith in the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, who came to save us from our sins, something we can never do for ourselves. This is indeed the "true religion."

But, have we ever been to a Protestant church? Dear me! They are some of the worst places we could ever go to. What's wrong with them? Well, for example:

- Very, very light view of sin. "If Christ has saved me from my sins, I don't need to think about sin any more."
- Loud preachers exalting themselves.
- Men convinced they are right, yet all differ from one another.
- Thousands of tinpot little denominations going it alone.
- Aggressive evangelism.
- No seriousness. Too much frivolity, laughing and joking.
- No humility.

And the list goes on. How can anyone take Protestants seriously? Nobody can possibly condone any of these practices. They have "true religion," but completely wreck it. Why is this?

Because "church" is led by men, who, as we have shown, are born "evil" and cannot do "good" no matter how hard they try.

"Church" is not the answer at all. We should never trust in any "church." We trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

Just read Scripture for ourselves. Read what the Lord Jesus Christ said and did. Ask the Lord Jesus Christ to reveal the truth to us. This will confirm the "true religion" in our hearts and help us grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, exactly as we are supposed to do.

"True religion" is a heart thing, not a "church" thing. And Jesus Christ alone is the answer. Never men.

**[www.christianpilgrim.org](http://www.christianpilgrim.org)**

## **Religion**

We can't say that all religions are true, because they aren't. We need to stop pretending that all religions lead to God because they don't. All religions are different from one another. They all teach completely different things. There can be only one "true religion" or philosophy of life. That "true religion" must be the one that can both recognise the fundamental problem with this world, and have the correct solution.

This "true religion" is what we ought to understand as truth. All other religions and philosophies of life must be **rejected** because they either don't recognise the problem, or, if they do, they don't have the correct solution. In other words, they are **wrong**. Yes, our religion or philosophy of life may be **wrong**. Have we ever thought about that? Believing a religion that is **wrong** is believing a lie.

### ***(1.) Recognising the problem***

If we don't think there is a fundamental problem with the world at all, then we need our heads examining. It is obvious that there is a problem in the world. A big problem.

What is it? Evil. The world is full of evil.

We can straight away **reject** any religion or philosophy of life that cannot see this. Consequently:

- (a.) We need to define "evil" correctly.
- (b.) We need to find out where "evil" comes from.

### ***(a.) Defining "evil."***

An atheist cannot define "evil" nor say where it comes from. It is a total mystery to him. In fact nothing is "evil" to him. Everything is the way it is just because it is the way it is.

- Therefore atheism has no morality.
- Therefore atheism is meaningless.

Atheism cannot even recognise that there is a problem, let alone tell us what that problem is. Therefore atheism must be **rejected**.

Neither a Buddhist nor an Hindu can define "evil" nor say where it comes from.

- Therefore neither Buddhism nor Hinduism has any morality.
- Therefore Buddhism and Hinduism are also meaningless.

Both these religions believe in reincarnation. Endless cycles of life. In these religions, "I" don't really exist as myself, rather "I" am just an incarnation that will disappear again shortly and become somebody else. Therefore:

- (a.) Nobody has any responsibility for anything they do.
- (b.) There is no incentive to say sorry to anybody for anything.
- (c.) There is no incentive to help anyone in need.
- (d.) If we don't know what we've done wrong in a "previous life," how can we ever improve? We are bound to make the same mistakes over and over again.

One look inside any Hindu or Buddhist temple and we will find statues of many "gods." But none of them can be a real "god" at all because none of them can be all-powerful. Just a bit bigger than us, that's all. And, in any case, any religion that has "gods" with elephant heads, blue faces, or any other frightening appearance, are figments of drug-induced imaginations and cannot possibly be real.

Neither Buddhism nor Hinduism can define nor even recognise the problem of "evil." And both are filled with so many other ridiculous ideas, therefore these religions must be **rejected**.

There can only be one God who is all-powerful. "Evil" can only be defined by reference to that One God. "Evil" is any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of that God.

– If there is no God, "evil" cannot be defined, because there are no laws.

– If there is more than one "god," which one are we following? What defines "evil" would differ in each case.

– If we say that the law is defined by "the will of the people," then different people groups have different ideas. Cannibals think it's perfectly all right to eat people. And in any case, "the will of the people" always changes over time.

Therefore only monotheists can recognise the problem correctly. So, "true religion" can only be found in a monotheistic religion. Every other religion or philosophy of life must be **rejected**.

### **(b.) Where does "evil" come from?**

– "Evil" could come from a demonic spiritual world completely separate from ourselves. But we can't change a demonic spiritual world. And we can't know anything about such things anyway. So we must **reject** trying to solve the problem of "evil" by attempting to "exorcise" it. We don't know what we're doing.

– "Evil" is out there in the world, we read about it in the news every day. But we can't change the world out there. So we must **reject** trying to solve the problems of the world in political movements. If we form a political movement, we are adding to the world's problems, not solving them. Politics cannot change the human heart.

– "Evil" is far more local than that. It's in our town, in our street. We know of child abusers and sexual predators living near us. But we can't change our neighbour. We can advise him that what he is doing is not right, we can get him sent to jail, but we can't change his heart. We can't actually stop him doing what he does. So we must **reject** all forms of counselling, because outward help can only advise, not change anyone.

So, where does "evil" come from? From within ourselves. From the human heart. All we can do is deal with the problem of evil within ourselves as individuals. We can't deal with it in anybody else. Only people individually being changed from within can solve the problem of "evil."

### **(2.) Finding the Solution**

So far, we've seen that the "true religion" must be a monotheistic religion that believes in each individual human being needing to be changed from within. Everything else must be **rejected**.

There are two popular ideas we now need to examine:

- (a.) Many believe they have the one "true religion" by birth.
- (b.) Many believe that "true religion" is living a "good" life.

#### **(a.) Religion by birth**

Millions believe they have been born into the one true religion, so they don't need to think any more about it. After all, their family has been in that religion for generations, so they must be right. And some are prepared to fight to the death if necessary to defend this idea. This is madness. It just isn't logical. Maybe we and our family have been wrong for generations.

And nobody can go back all that far into their family history anyway. For example, no Jew today can prove he is directly descended from Abraham.

Even if we have been born into the one true religion, surely we shouldn't just blindly accept that. We should always try to think things through for ourselves, and then believe whatever religion we conclude to be the truth. And we should all have every right to change our religion whenever we come to new conclusions. But many religions hate this idea and would throw us out of family privileges if ever we decided to leave the "family" religion. Some would even try to kill us if we left. How dreadful is that.

If we think that the one "true religion" is automatically the one we are born into, without any thought, then we are **wrong**. And if our religion seriously teaches that, then it should be **rejected**.

#### **(b.) Living a "good" life**

First of all we must **define** "good."

"Good" in any religion is all about keeping the laws of God, as defined in the religion's "holy book".

– Islam has the wrong "holy book." Its followers are told, amongst other things, "*annihilate the infidel*" and "*kill them wherever you may find them.*" So "good" is defined completely wrongly. Therefore Islam is to be **rejected**.

– Judaism and Christianity have the correct "holy book." The difference being that Christianity claims to have extra revelation in the New Testament, which Jews reject. But, at least, in both Judaism and Christianity, "good" is defined correctly. Both have the moral law of God, summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.

So we are only going to find the truth from somewhere within these two religions.

Secondly, we must ask **how** "evil" has come to be in the human heart? There are three possibilities:

– (a.) We are all born "good," and become "evil" simply by our own bad choices in life. This is so obviously wrong. We don't have to teach a child to be naughty, or selfish. He naturally is from birth. We need to teach him to be "good," because he naturally doesn't know how to be.

Muslims believe that we are all born "good." But we are not, and so Islam must be **rejected**.

– (b.) We are all born "neutral," and become "good" or "evil" depending on the environment we grow up in. This is wrong too, because poor and privileged alike are "evil." There is no distinction. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Jews believe that we are all born "neutral." But we are not, and so Judaism must be **rejected**.

Eastern Orthodox "Christians" of all persuasions (Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, etc.) also believe that we are effectively all born "neutral," albeit with a predisposition to sin. But we are not like this, and so we must also **reject** huge swathes of "Christendom" too.

– (c.) We are all born "evil." This is the only explanation for the world. And, if we are all born "evil," it must follow that we cannot keep the law of God within ourselves, no matter how hard we try.

Many people think that true religion is about keeping the law of God by trying hard enough. But if we are born "evil" to start with, we can never do this. So any religion which seriously teaches that we actually have the ability to keep God's law and that all we must do is try hard enough, must be **rejected**.

The truth is that we cannot keep the law of God no matter how hard we try, so we need a Saviour to save us from this situation.