

How Do Your Current Beliefs Align with Believing in Christ?

You may be wondering why it is important for people to identify their current religious and/or spiritual beliefs if they are just interested in learning about Jesus Christ and what they may gain from believing in Him. We suggest you take time to identify your current beliefs for two reasons:

1. Knowing your current religious and/or spiritual beliefs will give you a set of reference points to use when comparing how having a sincere relationship with Jesus Christ may differ from, or align with, your current beliefs. This will also help you discover what beliefs you might need to change, or could keep, if you decide to change your current beliefs and pursue a relationship with Christ.
2. It is helpful to be aware of any influence your current religious and/or spiritual beliefs (or lack thereof) might have on how you approach the information provided on our website. When thinking about your current religious and/or spiritual beliefs, you may actually uncover some long-forgotten curiosities that our information might address and help you answer. A review of your current beliefs may also uncover some biases you are not aware of, and it would be helpful to know those up front, so they do not influence your consideration of believing in Christ.

Regardless of your current religious/spiritual beliefs, if you are curious about Jesus Christ and how having a genuine relationship with Him might enhance your life, this website was built for you. If you are already a Christian, we hope the information provided on the website will help solidify your relationship with Christ. If you are a believer in another faith or have no faith or religious/spiritual foundation at all, we hope you find the information presented on our website enlightening and that it opens your mind, and heart, to things you may never have thought about before.

Your faith must be your decision. We just want to make sure you have all the information about Jesus Christ when arriving at that decision. We also ask that you approach our information with an open mind, and that you remember our goal is to inform and educate – not to make another religious/spiritual belief wrong.

Understanding Your Faith

Most people have at least some familiarity with a spiritual or religious belief system. They may have been exposed to things in school, dragged along to a place of worship sometime in their childhood, or just picked up some information from a friend. Or they may just be curious about some things they cannot explain – like how did the universe get started; or wow, how did THAT happen; or why do certain things happen to me?

When thinking about your current spiritual/religious beliefs, we suggest focusing on four seemingly “foundational” concepts and questions:

1. Do you believe in God or some other form of Supreme Being?
2. Do you believe in a heaven/paradise and its alternative?
3. Do you follow a particular spiritual leader or prophet?
4. Do you follow a spiritual/religious doctrine of some kind?

We suppose most answers to the first two questions run the spectrum from “I don’t believe in God or heaven and you’ll never convince me otherwise”, to “I never really thought about it”, to “Yes, I believe there is a God and I am going to heaven.” With respect to following or having a relationship with a spiritual leader, the answers might run the gamut from “I don’t follow any spiritual leader”, to “I never gave it much thought”, to “I have a bunch of spiritual leaders that I embrace”, to “Well, I’ve heard about Christ”, to “Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, and that He died for our sins, and that He was resurrected on the third day proving that eternal life is possible.”

Regarding a “spiritual/religious doctrine”, we’re likely to find similar positions like, “I don’t believe in any doctrine” or “Well, I believe some parts of many different doctrines”, or “Yes, I wholeheartedly believe in the _____ (fill in the blank) doctrine and try to live my life accordingly.”

Quite a range of answers for sure, and whatever your answers are, you more than likely chose them for good reasons. However, you should know that some beliefs offer a whole lot more benefit than others; and in the case of believing in Jesus Christ, the difference may be completely life altering. We believe it never hurts to examine something that could be life altering.

Let's start your examination of Jesus Christ by looking at the #1 question that seems fundamental to most religious and/or spiritual beliefs.

Do You Believe in a God or a Supreme Being?

In examining your beliefs to see how they relate to believing in Christ, probably the first question you will want to answer is, "Do I believe in a God/Supreme Being/Creator"? Most answers often break down into one of three positions: (1) Yes, I believe in a God/Supreme Being/Creator. This is often characterized as also believing that there is an 'Intelligent Design' behind how everything in the universe got started; or (2) No, I don't believe in a God/Supreme Being or any Intelligent Design behind creation because I believe it all happened by accident or from some form of cosmic Big Bang; or (3) Nothing ever got "created" as the universe was always here in the first place.

Believing in God as the Creator – not *a* creator but *the* Creator – appears hard for many people to accept, which is one reason we address this belief first. Many people have chosen to believe that God didn't create the universe and all things in it because science and the Big Bang Theory (Hubble¹) claim to prove that the universe came into being, not from God, but from a dense molten mass exploding in what they term a "singularity" event. Unfortunately, the scientists behind the Big Bang Theory cannot explain where such a dense molten mass big enough to create the universe came from. People who subscribe to the Big Bang Theory also usually point to Darwin's theory of evolution as proving an Intelligent Design was not behind creation. Darwin's theory was, of course, accepted by many for over half a century.

However, current research shows that science today, now supported by atomic physics, molecular biology, and studies of DNA protein formation – none of which were available to Hubble or Darwin – is moving away from the Big Bang/Evolution theories to perhaps granting that there was an Intelligent Design of some kind behind creation. The scientific facts are simply becoming more and more clear that creation did not suddenly occur by accident and from nothing, and that it was something other than "survival of the fittest" that governed evolution.^{2, 3}

Note: We strongly suspect that science will forever be reluctant to credit any Intelligent Design, especially God, with creation because, quite honestly, if God is accepted by certain sciences, why then do we need those sciences? Just know that prejudices exist on both sides of this dialog, and we encourage you to be aware of them and to know the facts as they emerge and not be chained to theories that are no longer as valid as they once might have been.

Which path you choose to follow is, of course, up to you; but you need to be aware that some of the "older" and more commonly accepted scientific theories that purported to prove that God never existed, have been debunked by more recent scientific discoveries. We explore all of this in our PDF, "Scripture and Science – How Well Do They Relate?".

And you need to know right off the bat that believing in Christ will require you to also believe that there is a God/Creator who is, and was, the Intelligent Designer behind all things.

Do You Believe in Heaven?

If you do believe in some form of Supreme Being, coupled with an Intelligent Design behind creation, the next step is to ask the simple question, "Do I believe in heaven?" Most answers fall within three broad categories: (1) "I don't believe in heaven (or hell for that matter)", (2) "I hope there's a heaven, but I'm not sure", and (3) "Yes, I believe in heaven, and I know for sure I am going there after I die." Believing in Jesus Christ will lead you to believing in heaven, and you will find that believing in Him is the only door through which you can enter heaven.

¹ The term "Big Bang Theory" was coined by Fred Hoyle, but the thesis behind the theory stems from work performed by Edward Hubble.

² Oxford University mathematical physicist and 2020 Nobel Prize winner in physics for his work on black holes, Sir Roger Penrose calculated that the odds of the universe, as we know it today, being created from nothing and by chance are: "1 part in 10 to the power of 10 to the power of 123; that is 1 followed by 10 to the 123rd power zeros [or 10^{10¹²³}]. According to Sir Penrose, this number is so large that if you put a zero on every particle in the universe, you would not have enough particles (zeros) to represent the number – thus proving that the universe either had an independent causation or has always existed.

³ In an Uncommon Knowledge (Hoover Institution) presentation, Dr. Stephen Meyer, Director of the Center for Science and Culture at the Discovery Institute, points out that the odds of "useful" DNA proteins evolving on their own to make up the organizational mutations inherent in the history of the planet are 1 to the 10 trillion, trillion, trillionth. All three scientists involved in the presentation, one of whom [David Gelernter] was a former advocate of Darwinism, concluded it would be "impossible" for evolution to have occurred as presented by Darwin. It is reported that Darwin himself indicated that should science ever succeed in viewing particles below the size of molecules, his theories of evolution might not hold up. See also *Darwin's Doubt* by Dr. Stephen Meyer.

If you fall into the first group and adamantly believe there is no heaven (or hell), then it would be impossible for you to genuinely believe in Jesus Christ. However, if you are convinced there is no heaven or hell, we strongly suggest you go to YouTube and search for videos about people who “died” and then were miraculously “brought back to life”, to learn what they experienced in the process. This investigation could have a life-altering impact on your beliefs.

One very compelling video is by Ian McCormack – a former Atheist who was stung by five deadly poisonous jellyfish, died in the Emergency Room, and woke up 20 minutes later in the morgue after having been declared dead. Not only was he healed, but he also claims to have witnessed both heaven and hell during that 20-minute period. This video is compelling to us not only because it is breathtaking, but also because Ian’s description of the darkness he experienced before seeing the light of Christ is virtually identical to – matching almost word for word – the description of a friend of ours who “died” on the operating table after suffering a heart attack but was eventually resuscitated. Unfortunately for our friend, he only witnessed the darkness, not the light. These two people had never heard of each other, had their experiences on two different continents, and yet their descriptions are almost word for word identical. We believe this is beyond coincidence. We also suggest reading the book *To Hell and Back - Life After Death* by Maurice Rawlings, MD, who writes about the after-death experiences of his own patients. Remember, knowledge, an open mind, and an unhardened heart are powerful tools in discovering the truth.

If you fall into the second group of just not being sure about a heaven or hell, and a lot of people are in this group, rest assured; some of our PDF documents explain how the Bible defines both heaven and hell and how believing in Christ is your way into heaven and avoiding hell. And, of course, when you know exactly what it takes to get into heaven, it will be up to you to decide if you want to adopt the beliefs that will guarantee your entry into God’s kingdom. We also suggest reviewing our PDF document, *“Where Are Heaven and Hell?”*.

Now, if you are in the third group – the group that knows for sure they are going to heaven – you may be in for a big surprise. Because it is so critical not to be misled by false prophets who can lead you down a path which could deprive you of eternal life in heaven, we have two PDF documents, *“What Leads to Our Salvation?”* and *“Why Just Being a Good Person Doesn’t Get Us into Heaven”*. Since these documents explain in detail the requirements for entry into God’s kingdom of heaven, we won’t go into them here.

Do You Believe in a Spiritual Leader or a Prophet or a Messiah Like Jesus Christ?

In addition to a “Supreme Being”, most major religions or “belief systems” are grounded in at least a “foundational spiritual leader”. Jesus Christ is an obvious example, but so too are Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, and the Dali Lama, among others.

What probably makes believing in Jesus Christ different from believing in other “spiritual leaders” is His fundamental role in, well, everything. We cover this important description of Jesus in our PDF document, *“Why Is Jesus Christ the Main Character?”*. Also, it is critical to know that unlike belief in other spiritual leaders, belief in Jesus is an “all in” commitment. You either believe in Him and What/Who He represents, or you don’t. You either walk in His Light, or you walk in darkness. There is no fence sitting. While this may sound rather dogmatic to some, it is meant to be so because God’s conditions are quite clear. The benefits of believing in Christ are too monumental and life-altering to be given to fence sitters. Just know, there are no bargain seats in the Kingdom of Heaven, and God doesn’t grade on the curve.

As you learn about Jesus Christ, you may – and most likely will – have doubts. This is very understandable and frankly, should not be avoided. Blind or ignorant faith probably won’t serve you well because you want your faith to be strong enough to stand the tests of time. And there will be challenges, as there are in most belief systems.

Basically, we can summarize the above dialog into five simple belief algorithms:

1. You either believe there is a God and an Intelligent Design behind Creation, or you don’t.
2. If you believe there is a God and an Intelligent Design behind Creation, then you either believe nothing happens to you after you die (the Intelligent Design does not include an afterlife), or you do believe that there is some form of life after death.
3. If you do believe in a life after death, you either believe that life after death belongs to everyone, or that the afterlife only belongs to those who meet certain criteria.

4. If you do believe that one must meet certain criteria to have life after death, you either believe you meet the criteria, or you believe you don't.
5. If you believe you do meet the criteria for life after death, then you either have a doctrine of belief that clearly explains what the criteria are and why you either meet them or don't meet them. If you don't have such a doctrine, then you're only making a guess.

Obviously, if your beliefs – whatever they are – take you through to step five, you want to make darn sure you pick the correct spiritual/religious doctrine, as your future life depends on it. And this is where one's religious doctrine becomes quite important.

Do You Believe in a Spiritual/Religious Doctrine of Some Kind?

The last of your spiritual/religious beliefs that we ask you to examine is whether your spiritual or religious doctrine provides written guidance in how to live your life. If you are a Muslim, it will most likely be the Quran (Koran). If you are Jewish, it will most likely be the Old Testament portion of the Bible. If you already have a genuine relationship with Christ, your primary source doctrine will be the entire Bible – both the Old and New Testaments. Other doctrines include the Book of Mormon, the Watchtower (Jehovah's Witnesses) and the Catholic Catechism.

Why are doctrines important to belief systems? Very simple. A doctrine will traditionally define the nature of and history behind the belief system, as well as outline the behaviors required to maintain alignment with that belief system. If you do not have a written source spelling everything out, it is like going to an unfamiliar place without a map – how will you know if you are on the right road to your destination?

For a doctrine to fully support the religious/spiritual belief system on which it is based, we believe it must address all aspects of the belief system – and if the belief system is comprehensive, so too should be its underlying doctrine. If the underlying doctrine supporting your current set of beliefs leaves you with a lot of unanswered questions, you might want to consider other belief systems and their supporting doctrines.

For Biblical Christians, our source for doctrine is the Bible and only the Bible – all of it, both the Old and New Testaments. Our belief system is comprehensive, covering creation (from the beginning) to what happens to you after you physically die, and to what happens at the end of time – and to some degree, what happens in between. If you have a question, the odds are greatly in your favor that the Bible has one or more verses to address it. For most Christians, this is extremely comforting.

Because the Bible is such an integral part of believing in Christ, we want to make sure people know they can rely on it. So, we have created a rather lengthy PDF document, "[Can I Trust the Bible?](#)", to address this question.

How one relates to their doctrine of choice is an issue where believing in other spiritual/religious systems and sincerely believing in Christ may differ. As we mentioned above, a genuine relationship with Christ requires you to be "all in" in your belief. For Biblical Christians, the Bible is God's inerrant word, and as such, it requires a full commitment and is not meant to be multiple choice. The Bible is not a buffet of various ideas where you can pick and choose what you want to believe and what you don't. If you honestly believe in God, we suggest your best choice is to listen as He speaks through the Bible.

Why should you believe in the entire Bible, as opposed to just bits and pieces of it? Well, think of it this way. If you are of a certain age, when you got your driver's license, you most likely had to pass a test. To prepare for this all-important test, you were given a manual with a title something like "The Rules of the Road" to study, and for the most part, memorize. Nowhere in the driver's manual was there a statement that read "You only have to follow 90% of what's in this book and you get to pick the 10% you want to ignore". And for good reason. You do not get the luxury of thinking, "Well, I'll ignore the rule about stopping at red lights." In fact, it probably never crossed your mind to even think of doing so. Right?

Well, the Bible is similar, but in this case, passing God's test is a whole lot more important than getting your driver's license. The Bible is many things and one of them is a Rule Book on how God wants you to live your life and who He wants you to trust and why. Follow it, and you will have an exceptional life. Ignore parts of it, and you will likely run into problems. Ignore *certain* parts of it and you will experience harsh, life-altering consequences.

False Prophets

Probably the most important reason for fully understanding your current beliefs and what they are founded on, is knowing whether you have been led astray or misinformed by “false prophets”. Pity the person who thinks he or she is going to receive a promised outcome by following a set of rules, only to have that outcome denied. This also can be true in the case of a belief system.

Such a disastrous outcome is of particular concern if you elect to follow Jesus Christ, because following the wrong biblical doctrine could easily result in the forfeiture of eternal life.⁴

On numerous occasions, the Bible addresses the danger of false prophets. Here are two examples from the Gospel of Matthew. In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is talking to His disciples and telling the gathered crowds about the perils of being misled by false prophets when He says:

“Enter [into heaven] through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to [eternal] life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.” Matthew 7:15-20

So, What Belief System is Best?

Any discussion of comparative religious beliefs, and why you may want to follow one belief system over another, will invariably touch on the questions, “How do I know a certain belief system is the best one”, or “How do I know a certain belief system is better than the one I currently follow”? While these are great questions, they can lead to what most consider to be good advice – “Don’t ever discuss politics or religion at the dinner table.” This is because most people think “their” views are the “right” views. It is not uncommon for families to separate over such set-in-stone attitudes.

We suggest a different approach. How about looking at it from the perspective of “What’s best for me?” After all, in this particular exploration, you are the only one who really matters, right? What’s important is what works best for you.

We hate to say it, but it’s a lot like buying a new car. The bright red, flashy, expensive two-seater sports model that gets really bad gas mileage and will probably be out of style in a few years might be the best car for some people, but perhaps not quite the right one for you. You might be the type who likes the trustworthy yet stylish, comfortable, affordable model that you can keep for a long time, that keeps your family safe and gets great gas mileage. It may not turn heads, but it will be something you can always rely on.

It would be inappropriate for us to think we know what’s best for you, as only you can successfully make that call; but here are three “core” reasons why you might want to make the Bible and Jesus Christ your belief system:

1. Jesus and the Bible teach us to pursue a life based on the following: ***“... Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...”*** Galatians 5:22-23. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus adds humility, gratitude and acceptance. See Matthew Chapter 5. Would you like your life to be guided by these attributes? Would having them in your life not generate a better life for you?
2. We think you should only believe in something because you think it is true. Jesus Christ explains why this is important when He tells His disciples: ***“... and the truth will make you free.”*** John 8:31. Yes, this concept comes from Jesus Christ, not from some ancient Greek philosophers. So, you might want to ask yourself, do you want a truth that will set you free?
3. Some have promised a life after death if you believe their philosophies, but how many of them died on your behalf to make it possible, and then came back from the dead to prove it? Only one. Jesus Christ gave His life for you so that you can have access to life eternal.

Jesus expresses the above three core reasons for believing in Him in just one statement: ***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*** John 14:6

⁴ Please note: there are numerous religious/spiritual belief systems that profess to follow the Bible, but in reality don’t. While their leaders may “read” from the Bible, their actual underlying belief system/ doctrine comes from a different source. We cover this important topic in our PDF document, ***“Why Are Some Religions Potentially Dangerous?”***. As you might imagine, this PDF is located on the CONTROVERSIES page.

Summary

As we have stated previously, our goal is simply to educate and inform you as to why we think believing in Christ warrants your serious consideration. Yes, we clearly believe the Biblical Christian belief system, as explained in the Bible, is the “right” one to follow, and we believe this because we think the evidence overwhelmingly dictates this conclusion. But it must be your choice; ideally it will be a choice you make based on accurate information and verifiable facts and not on mere conjecture, hope or misleading information.

Here are some of the criteria we suggest you consider using when evaluating various religious/spiritual doctrines. You can use the Bible as a benchmark since it meets all of these criteria, as any viable religious doctrine should.

#	Evaluation Criteria	The Bible	Yours	Other
1.	Is the doctrine old enough to have stood “the test of time”, and is it as relevant today as it was when it was written?	✓		
2.	Has the doctrine been translated into multiple languages and is it used throughout the world?	✓		
3.	Does the doctrine’s timeframe cover “from the beginning” and go thru to the “end of days”?	✓		
4.	Does the doctrine explain both good and evil and what behaviors clearly constitute each?	✓		
5.	Does the doctrine contain a fountain of wisdom which is as germane today as it was thousands of years ago?	✓		
6.	Does the doctrine establish principles for living a wonderful life that most people would find hard to disagree with – principles like love, peace, compassion, kindness, honesty, commitment, hard work and humility?	✓		
7.	Does the doctrine clearly explain what happens to you when you die?	✓		
8.	Are the people, places, activities, lifestyles, and occurrences that comprise the doctrine supported by external historical facts, writings, and discoveries?	✓		
9.	Does the doctrine include prophecies of future events – some thousands of years into the future – all of which, so far, have come true?	✓		
10.	Does the doctrine include multiple eyewitness accounts of what is being taught?	✓		
11.	Does the doctrine include supernatural events (miracles) that are supported by both eyewitness accounts and independent, historical authors?	✓		
12.	Are there sayings/quotes/references from the doctrine that are still widely in use today?	✓		
13.	Do the teachings of the doctrine make common sense to someone not practicing the doctrine?	✓		
14.	Is the doctrine open to everyone?	✓		
15.	Has the doctrine passed a thorough forensic analysis as to its credibility?	✓		
16.	Where applicable, do enough independent third-party resources exist to successfully address any claims made <i>against</i> the doctrine?	✓		
17.	Lastly, does the doctrine, as originally written, stand on its own without having to rely on anything outside itself?	✓		

Since both your current well-being and your future well-being may rest on the religious/spiritual doctrine you adopt, we encourage you to seriously examine why you should believe in Christ, because in Christ, you will know exactly where your future takes you.