

Reconciling Differences – Many Paths?

I. Introduction

[Animated map shows how religion spread around the world \(youtube.com\)](#)

Are you a Christian only because of where you were born?

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

(2 Cor 5:14-16)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. *(2 Cor 5:17-19)*

II. Reconciliation begins with love

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *(John 3:16)*

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. *(John 13:34-35)*

III. Seeking to understand the other

He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. *(Luke 6:39-40)*

[Major World Religions — Article Index | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Minor World Religions — Article Index | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Catholic and Orthodox Christianity — Article Index | GotQuestions.org](#)

“So What’s the Difference?” written by Fritz Ridenour

A. Unaffiliated (Atheists, Agnostics, etc.)

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands (*Ps 19:1*)

B. Hinduism

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (*John 17:3*)

C. Buddhism

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. (*Is 5:21*)

D. Islam

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. (*Matt 7:15*)

E. Christianity

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (*Rom 3:23a*)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (*Rom 6:23*)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (*Rom 5:8*)

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (*Rom 10:9*)

E.1. Catholicism

And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! (*Mark 7:9*)

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (*1 Tim 2:5*)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. (*Eph 2:8-9*)

E.2. LDS/Mormonism

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. (*2 Pet 2:1*)

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. (*Rev 22:18-19*)

“See now that I myself am he! There is no god besides me. (*Duet 32:39*)

IV. Our ministry of reconciliation

If you were a follower of a non-Christian religion, how would you want to be approached by a Christian?

[How a Dice can show that God exists \(youtube.com\)](#)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (*Gen 1:1*)

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. (*Matt 7:28-29*)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (*1 Tim 3:16*)

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them . . . Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. (*Matt 7:15-20*)

[Missing The Boat - A Parable About Evangelism | Centerline New Media | WorshipHouse Media](#)

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (*Rom 10-14-15*)