

1: How Christians View Non-Christian Religions

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Summary Christmas, of course, is to honor the birth of a humble itinerant rabbi from the ancient world. Emperors and governors have come and gone, but it is this man Jesus whose birth we still celebrate years later. We hope everyone can enjoy this account in the delightful spirit of Christmas. Even most non-Christians at least respect Jesus as a great moral teacher. In addition, few would argue that this one man has had more impact on the world than any person in history. Most of the following material is from these books: So extensive is the Christian contribution to our laws, our economics, our politics, our arts, our calendar, our holidays, and our moral and cultural priorities that historian J. The concept of universal human rights and equality comes exclusively from the biblical idea that all people are created in the image of God. In ancient cultures, a wife was the property of her husband. Aristotle said that a woman was somewhere between a free man and a slave. According to the book *Reasons for God* by Tim Keller page , "It was extremely common in the Greco-Roman world to throw out new female infants to die from exposure, because of the low status of women in society. The church forbade its members to do so. Greco-Roman society saw no value in an unmarried woman, and therefore it was illegal for a widow to go more than two years without remarrying. But Christianity was the first religion to not force widows to marry. Finally, Christians did not believe in cohabitation. If a Christian man wanted to live with a woman he had to marry her, and this gave women far greater security. Also, the pagan double standard of allowing married men to have extramarital sex and mistresses was forbidden. In all these ways Christian women enjoyed far greater security and equality than did women in the surrounding culture. Christian missionaries were a major influence in stopping these century-old practices and ideas. Also see *Misconceptions* item In the ancient world, for example in classical Rome or Greece, infanticide was not only legal, it was applauded. Through a higher view of life, it was the early Christian church that ultimately brought an end to infanticide. The modern pro-life movement is largely Christian. This pro-life view has been true from the very beginning of Christianity. A Christian document called the *Didache*, dated from the late first century or early second century, contained instructions against abortion. While it is true that Christians have owned slaves in history, it is clear that this was a distortion of biblical teaching. See *Misconceptions* , item Early Christianity elevated the roles of those oppressed in society, by for example, accepting women and slaves as full members. Slaves participated equally in worship and the community and were afforded contract and property rights. According to historian Glenn Sunshine in his book *Why You Think the Way You do*, "Christians were the first people in history to oppose slavery systematically. Early Christians purchased slaves in the markets simply to set them free. For example, historians credit the British evangelical William Wilberforce as the primary force behind the ending of the international slave trade which happened prior to the American Civil War. Two-thirds of the members of the American abolition society in were Christian ministers. A 5th century monk, Telemachus is credited as being the pivotal force ending the gladiator spectacles. Missionary followers of Jesus are credited with stopping cannibalism in many primitive societies. Top of page *Compassion and Mercy* Kennedy and Newcombe in their book detail the rise of charity in the name of Jesus over the centuries. This is in stark contrast to history before Jesus. Historians record that prior to Jesus, the ancient world left little trace of any organized charitable effort. For example, his *Parable of the Good Samaritan* Luke While there are good charitable efforts outside of the name of Jesus, Kennedy and Newcombe argue that Christian charities stand out. They point to Mother Theresa, the Salvation Army, religious hospitals, and church supported soup kitchens and thrift shops in every community. Jesus has had such an enormous impact on charity that one wonders how different things would be if he had never been born. If there is a huge famine or reports of genocide in Africa, most people in other cultures are unconcerned. Part of the reason why we do this is because of our Christian assumptions The ancient Greeks and Romans did not believe this. They held a view quite commonly held in other cultures today: However paradoxical it seems, people who believed most strongly in the next world did the most to

improve the situation of people living in this one. Nick unquestionably arose within the Christian tradition. Those premises were introduced by Christianity into a society to which they were completely foreign. But the phenomenon of education for the masses has its roots in the Protestant Reformation. In order to promote Bible literacy, Christians have been leaders in education. This trend was accelerated with the advent of the printing press at about the same time as the Protestant Reformation. In America, the first law to require education of the masses was passed by the Puritans. By comparison, it has been estimated that in America today, 40 million people are functionally illiterate. All but one of the first colleges in colonial America were Christian institutions. While these universities have lost their Christian identities, it is interesting to read the founding statements of these schools. Harvard, for example, was founded on this statement: Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the maine end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternall life, John Here are just a few possible arguments in this regard: The Puritan framers of this document required that each aspect of it be grounded in Scripture. Other constitutions to follow contained many similarities to this one. At least 50 of the 55 signers of the U. Constitution were orthodox Christians. There is no doubt that the concept of our Constitutional checks and balances system is a direct result of the biblical doctrine of the sinfulness of mankind. All of our founders understood the importance of this doctrine to the social order. The idea that all men are created equal as enshrined in the Declaration of Independence is a biblical doctrine. The notion of the sovereign authority of God as mentioned in the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, all 50 state constitutions, our currency, etc. The existence of moral absolutes a biblical concept is an important idea in our Declaration of Independence--specifically, self-evident truths and unalienable rights from the Creator. Many other aspects of our laws come directly from the Bible--for example the judicial, legislative and executive branches trace to Isaiah Fair trials with witnesses have numerous Old and New Testament support. Regarding civil liberty, founding father John Adams and others emphasized 2 Corinthians 3: Kennedy and Newcombe argue that Jesus himself was the greatest civil libertarian of all time. Our modern idea of limited government takes the Christian notion of space that is off-limits to state control and extends it to the whole private sphere The separation of the realms should not be a weapon against Christianity; rather, it is a device supplied by Christianity to promote social peace, religious freedom, and a moral community. If we recovered the concept in its true sense, our society would be better off. See the other article on our site entitled The Bible and Government. Top of page Science Kennedy and Newcombe also argue that science has its roots in Christianity. They point out that other world religions may express a worldview of fatalism everything is fatalistically determined or of illusion that the physical world is an illusion. Science could not have arisen from these worldviews. Christianity on the other hand, is based on the notion that there exists a rational God who is the source of rational truth. This, they argue, gave rise to the possibility of scientific laws. Evidence for this view is that nearly all the founders of modern science were Christians. Thou shalt not covet. Interestingly, there are over references to money in the Bible! But many historians credit theologian John Calvin from years earlier as the person who is most responsible for putting together the principles that were always in the Bible into a system adapted by the American founders. For example, the biblical doctrines of self-reliance and self-denial are the foundation of the famous "Protestant work ethic. A distinction can be made between biblical capitalism and evolutionary capitalism. The emphasis on biblical capitalism is on the importance of servanthood--a key teaching of Jesus. Evolutionary capitalism, on the other hand, relies solely on the survival of the fittest. Anyone who doubts the relationship of biblical ideas to free enterprise need only to note the stark contrast with communism. Communism is specifically an atheistic system that relies on the non-biblical notion that all men are good thus will work for the common good. But communism has been an abject economic failure. To some it is surprising that capitalism developed so easily in conjunction with a Christian ethic. Some critics accuse capitalism of being a selfish system, but the selfishness is not in capitalism--it is in human nature While profit remains the final goal, entrepreneurs spend the better part of each day figuring out how better to serve the needs of their actual and potential customers. They are operationally, if not intentionally, altruistic One may say that capitalism civilizes greed in much the same way that marriage civilizes lust. There may never have developed the cantata, the concerto, or the symphony. Handel, Vivaldi,

and Bach were Christians who worked to honor God with their work.

2: Full text of "Social aspects of Christianity, and other essays"

*Social Aspects of Christianity: And Other Essays [Richard Theodore Ely] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This is a reproduction of a book published before This book may have occasional imperfections such as missing or blurred pages.*

Biblical criticism Biblical criticism, in particular higher criticism, covers a variety of methods used since the Enlightenment in the early 18th century as scholars began to apply to biblical documents the same methods and perspectives which had already been applied to other literary and philosophical texts. It uses general historical principles, and is based primarily on reason rather than revelation or faith. There are four primary types of biblical criticism: Textual criticism Within the abundance of biblical manuscripts exist a number of textual variants. The vast majority of these textual variants are the inconsequential misspelling of words, word order variations [10] and the mistranscription of abbreviations. Ehrman have proposed that some of these textual variants and interpolations were theologically motivated. Wallace , Craig Blomberg , and Thomas Howe. In modern translations of the Bible, the results of textual criticism have led to certain verses being left out or marked as not original. These possible later additions include the following: Verses in which any one of the seven editions differs by a single word are not counted. This result is quite amazing, demonstrating a far greater agreement among the Greek texts of the New Testament during the past century than textual scholars would have suspected. In the Gospels , Acts , and Revelation the agreement is less, while in the letters it is much greater. That is, whether the Masoretic text which forms the basis of the Protestant Old Testament , or other translations such as the Septuagint , Syriac Peshitta , and Samaritan Pentateuch are more accurate. The Bible and History and Internal consistency and the Bible Inconsistencies have been pointed out by critics and skeptics, [17] presenting as difficulties the different numbers and names for the same feature and different sequences for what is supposed to be the same event. Responses to these criticisms include the modern documentary hypothesis , two-source hypothesis in various guises , and assertions that the Pastoral Epistles are pseudonymous. Contrasting with these critical stances are positions supported by traditionalists, considering the texts to be consistent, with the Torah written by a single source, [18] [19] but the Gospels by four independent witnesses, [20] and all of the Pauline Epistles, except possibly the Hebrews , as having been written by Paul the Apostle. While consideration of the context is necessary when studying the Bible, some find the accounts of the Resurrection of Jesus within the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, difficult to reconcile. Sanders concludes that the inconsistencies make the possibility of a deliberate fraud unlikely: Instead, there seems to have been a competition: VIII Those who believe in the inspiration of scripture teach that it is infallible or inerrant , that is, free from error in the truths it expresses by its character as the word of God. Infallibility refers to the original texts of the Bible, and all mainstream scholars acknowledge the potential for human error in transmission and translation; yet, through use textual criticism modern critical copies are considered to "faithfully represent the original", [23]: X and our understanding of the original language sufficiently well for accurate translation. The opposing view is that there is too much corruption, or translation too difficult, to agree with modern texts. Unfulfilled Christian religious predictions God reveals himself to Abraham in scripture and he is seen here with three angels. By Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. Hundreds of years before the time of Jesus, Jewish prophets promised that a messiah would come. Judaism claims that Jesus did not fulfill these prophecies. Other skeptics usually claim that the prophecies are either vague or unfulfilled, [27] or that the Old Testament writings influenced the composition of New Testament narratives. He did not deliver the covenant people from their Gentile enemies, reassemble those scattered in the Diaspora, restore the Davidic kingdom, or establish universal peace cf. In addition, he questioned a number of Christian practices, such as Sunday Sabbath. Chizzuk Emunah was praised as a masterpiece by Voltaire. He wrote that Jesus was foretold, and that the prophecies came from a succession of people over a span of four thousand years. He says that even the timing of the Messiah in years and in relation to events is predicted, and that the Jewish Talmud not accepting Jesus as the Messiah, see also Rejection of Jesus laments that the Messiah had not appeared despite the scepter being taken away from Judah. Can

anything good come from there? Almah , Virgin birth of Jesus , and Isaiah 7: According to Jewish tradition, the Messiah must be a descendant of David, but if Jesus was born of a virgin, he cannot be a descendant of David through Joseph. The confusion surrounding the virginity of Mary may result from Septuagint translation of both Hebrew:

3: The Impact of Christianity - Faith Facts

*Social Aspects of Christianity: And Other Essays [Richard Theodore Ely] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This book was originally published prior to , and represents a reproduction of an important historical work.*

There are many types of religious values. Modern monotheistic religions, such as Islam , Judaism , Christianity and to a certain degree others such as Sikhism define right and wrong by the laws and rules set forth by their respective gods and as interpreted by religious leaders within the respective faith. Polytheistic religious traditions tend to be less absolute. For example, within Buddhism , the intention of the individual and the circumstances play roles in determining whether an action is right or wrong. For modern Westerners, who have been raised on ideals of universality and egalitarianism, this relativity of values and obligations is the aspect of Hinduism most difficult to understand. In , Pierre Bayle asserted that religion "is neither necessary nor sufficient for morality". For example, The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics says that, For many religious people, morality and religion are the same or inseparable; for them either morality is part of religion or their religion is their morality. For others, especially for nonreligious people, morality and religion are distinct and separable; religion may be immoral or nonmoral, and morality may or should be nonreligious. Even for some religious people the two are different and separable; they may hold that religion should be moral and morality should be, but they agree that they may not be. The proper role of ethical reasoning is to highlight acts of two kinds: For example, there is no absolute prohibition on killing in Hinduism , which recognizes that it "may be inevitable and indeed necessary" in certain circumstances. In the latter case, a study by the Barna Group found that some denominations have a significantly higher divorce rate than those in non-religious demographic groups atheists and agnostics. The ethnocentric views on morality, failure to distinguish between in group and out group altruism, and inconsistent definition of religiosity all contribute to conflicting findings. Furthermore, some studies have shown that religious prosociality is primarily motivated by wanting to appear prosocial, which may be related to the desire to further ones religious group. The egoistically motivated prosociality may also affect self-reports, resulting in biased results. Peer ratings can be biased by stereotypes, and indications of a persons group affiliation are sufficient to bias reporting. Even for people who were nonreligious, those who said they attended religious services in the past week exhibited more generous behaviors. Religious people were less inclined when it came to seeing how much compassion motivated participants to be charitable in other ways, such as in giving money or food to a homeless person and to non-believers. A review of studies on this topic found "The existing evidence surrounding the effect of religion on crime is varied, contested, and inconclusive, and currently no persuasive answer exists as to the empirical relationship between religion and crime. A study by Gregory S. Some works indicate that some societies with lower religiosity have lower crime rates especially violent crime, compared to some societies with higher religiosity. For example, Simon Blackburn states that "apologists for Hinduism defend or explain away its involvement with the caste system, and apologists for Islam defend or explain away its harsh penal code or its attitude to women and infidels". The Catholic condemnation of birth control, if it could prevail, would make the mitigation of poverty and the abolition of war impossible. The Hindu beliefs that the cow is a sacred animal and that it is wicked for widows to remarry cause quite needless suffering. You find as you look around the world that every single bit of progress in humane feeling, every improvement in the criminal law, every step toward the diminution of war, every step toward better treatment of the colored races, or every mitigation of slavery, every moral progress that there has been in the world, has been consistently opposed by the organized churches of the world. They condemn acts which do no harm and they condone acts which do great harm.

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6: Criticism of Christianity - Wikipedia

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