

World Cults Overview

	Biblical View	Transcendental Meditation	Armstrongism	Christian Science	Unification Church	Unity School of Christianity	Scientology	Spiritualism (Spiritism)
GOD		Each part of creation makes up "God-Brahman", impersonal, all creation is divine	One infinite & eternal deity, a trinity defining God as a "family of individuals"	God is impersonal, God truly exists (matter is an illusion) principle of life, truth, love, intelligence & spirit	God is both positive & negative. The universe is God's body. God does not know the future & needs man to make him happy. (Sun Myung Moon)	Invisible, impersonal, power. God is all and all is God. He is interchangeable with principle, law, being, mind, spirit. God is in everything much as the soul is in the body	Everyone is an operating "Thetan" an immortal spirit with unlimited powers over its own universe, but not all are aware of faith.	Impersonal, power, controlling the universe.
JESUS	Jesus Christ was god who took upon Himself human form. He was God also called "the son of God" Luke 1:35. The Bible indicates that He is fully God John 20:28 & fully human 1 Tim. 2:5, conceived without the aid of a human father & born of a virgin mother named Mary.	Jesus is not uniquely God like all people, Jesus had a divine essence unlike most. He discovered it. Did not & could not suffer for people's sin.	Jesus was not resurrected physically. Armstrong suggested that Jesus would return to earth in 1975. He is the only one who has been born again	Jesus was not Christ, but the man who displayed the Christs' ideas. Jesus was not God and God can never become man or flesh. He did not & could not suffer for sin. "Resurrection is spiritualization of thought". They are separate, Jesus from Christ.	Jesus was a perfect man not God. He is the son Zechariah & not born of the virgin. The 2 nd coming fulfilled in Sun Myung Moon who is superior to Jesus and will fulfill Jesus mission, to unite Jews behind him & find a perfect bride and begin the perfect family. Jesus' life on earth was a failure & His death on the cross a huge mistake.	Jesus was a man and not Christ. He was Christ consciousness. He did not die as a sacrifice for anyone's sins. Did not physically rise from the dead. Jesus and the Christ are different subjects.	Jesus did not die for our sins. He was not the creator. There was no Christ.	Jesus was a man not God. He was a prophet. Jesus is a man, a spirit that can communicate in the spirit world.
SALVATION	He lived a sinless life & never married. He carried our sins & died & on the third day God raised Him. He ascended to heaven to intercede. He will come back to judge those who are not repentant & do not believe in His death & salvation, because He is the only way to heaven.	Salvation consists of doing good in excess of evil in order to involve in a higher state through reincarnation.	Salvation is by grace. Must recognize Old Testament Sabbath days, feast days, and dietary prohibition such as no pork or shell fish.	Humanity is already eternally saved. Sin, sickness, death and evil are not real. Harmony & Christ the divine science shows the way to heaven. Acknowledges sin and error and denies it.	Obedience to and acceptance of Moon & his wife eliminate sin and results in perfection.	By recognizing that each person is as much a son of God as Jesus is. No evil, no sin, no poverty, no old age. A person is reincarnated. Immortality is to be gained through reincarnation.	There is no sin or a need to repent. Salvation is freedom from reincarnation. One must work with an auditor on his "hang-ups" to achieve the state of clear-the bridge to total freedom thru "self help".	Knowledge and good works enhance one's status in the after life.

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	Nicheren Sho Shu Buddhism	New Age	Hare Krishna (Iskcon)	Mormonism	Jehovah's Witness	Bahai World Faith
GOD	The mystic law of cause and effect (karma) is the essence of reality. It is embodied in the "Lotus Sutra" and in the Japanese title of the book.	Everything and everyone is God. God is impersonal force or principle. People have unlimited power and need to discover it.	Based on Hindu teachings, God is Lord Krishna. He is a personal creator. The souls of all living things are part of him. Once he divided himself into 16,308 forms to mate with 16,308 female cowherds.	God the Father was once a man, but became god. He has a physical body as does his wife, "Heavenly Mother". Worthy men may one day become gods themselves.	One person God called Jehovah. No Trinity. Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created.	God is a divine being who has revealed himself through nine manifestations as Religious leaders including Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, Mohammed and "Baha u'llah"
JESUS	Jesus Christ is not part of this belief	Jesus is not the one true God. He is not a savior but a spiritual model many believe went east to India or Tibet and learned mystical truths.	Jesus is not important to this group. He is thought of as an enlightened vegetarian teacher who taught meditation. He is not an incarnated God.	Jesus is a separate god from the father (Elohim). He was created as a spirit child. His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary. His death & resurrection doesn't provide full atonement for all sin.	Jesus is not God. He was Michael the Archangel. Jehovah made the universe through him. After dying on a stake not a cross, he was resurrected as a spirit. His body was destroyed. Very soon he and the angels will destroy all of mankind. Jesus returned invisible in 1914.	Jesus-one of many manifestations. Jesus was superceded by Moses, who as superceded by Muhammad and recently by the greatest Baha's u'llah. Jesus is not God & He did not rise from the dead. He is not the only way to God.
SALVATION	Enlightenment prosperity, expressing devotion to the law of Karma. Fulfilling worldly desires brings enlightenment. Healing comes from chanting "namm/ohorenge-kyo"	Need to offset bad Karma with good karma. Can tap into supernatural power through meditation, self awareness, TM and spirit guides.	Chanting Krishna's name constantly. Total devotion to Krishna, obeying the rule. The incarnated lives releases the follower from bad karma.	Resurrected by grace, saved by works, faithfulness to the church leaders, Mormon baptism, tithing, ordination, marriage & secret temple rituals. No eternal life to non-mormon.	Be baptized as Jehovah's Witness. Must earn everlasting life by door to door work. Salvation is limited to 144,000 annointed one.	Faith in the manifestation of God "Baha' u'llah" knowing & living by his principles and teachings.