


Ways Christianity Is Set Apart from Other Religions (definitions on back)

	A God or gods ALMIGHTY	B God or gods INFINITE	C God or gods ETERNAL	D God or gods HOLY & JUST	E God or gods PERSONAL	F God or gods ALL- MERCIFUL	G GROUNDED IN EVENTS OF HISTORY	H HUMANS TOTALLY SINFUL	I MESSIAH or HUMAN LEADER IS TRUE GOD	J PROVIDES SOUND & ABUNDANT EVIDENCE
<u>ATHEISM</u>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No, grounded in naturalism; rejects supernatural	No such thing as sin	No	No; rejects evidence for supernatural & miraculous
<u>PANTHEISM</u>	No	No	Maybe	No	No	No	No, grounded in mysticism	No basis for sin; or humans choose to be good or sinful	No	No
<u>POLYTHEISM</u>	No	No	No	No; gods are often sinful & unjust	Yes	No	No, grounded in myth or the occult	No, humans choose to be good or sinful	No	No
 Monotheistic religions <u>DEISM</u>	Yes	Yes or no, it depends...	Yes	Unknown	No	No	No, grounded in naturalism; denies miracles	No, humans choose to be good or sinful	No	No; rejects evidence for miraculous
<u>ISLAM</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, but mostly impersonal	No, only partly merciful	Yes, but rejects most O.T. and N.T. events	No, humans choose to be good or sinful	No	No; relies on limited & faulty evidence
<u>JUDAISM</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, but they don't recognize His primary visit	Yes, but they miss <i>how</i> God is all-merciful	Yes, but they reject N.T. events	Yes, but they remain blind to it	Yes, but they reject Him	Yes, but they reject clear & obvious evidence
<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>	Yes, one almighty triune God	Yes, one infinite triune God	Yes, one eternal triune God	Yes, one holy & just triune God	Yes, one personal triune God	Yes, one all-merciful triune God	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

RELIGIOUS TERMS DESCRIBING BELIEFS ABOUT GOD OR GODS

Atheism = *There is no god*. This is the common belief among Darwinian evolutionists and those who believe there is no supernatural, no miraculous -- there is nothing beyond the universe (there is only nature or matter).

Pantheism = *Everything is god or a part of god*: man, animal, earth, plants, water, etc. (taught in Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age, Native American, and occult religions).

Polytheism = *Many gods* (found within Norse, Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Canaanite, Hindu, Native American, and occult religions). Appears to be the default religion throughout history.

Monotheism = *Only one god*. Deism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Christianity are the main monotheistic religions. However, they still differ greatly from each other in significant and important ways (see chart).

Deism = *Only one god*, but mostly *unknowable and uninvolved in human affairs*. This is the default or common god of many monotheists. It is very possibly your neighbor's god if he rejects or is ignorant of Christianity. An example of this from the past might be the "unknown god" worshipped by Greek pagans mentioned in Acts 17:23.

RELIGIOUS TERMS DEFINING DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

Almighty = Can do all things, except those things that are contrary to His nature as God (for example, He cannot make Himself less than God).

Infinite = He is beyond and separate from the created world and universe; He is not limited to space or time.

Eternal = He has no beginning and no end and is therefore not created.

Holy = Without sin or fault, perfect. **Just** = A fair and impartial judge who will administer to all people well-deserved & appropriate rewards and punishments.

Personal = He is somehow intimately involved with creation, especially man. He has a desire to interact with man personally; He has done so and will do so.

All-Merciful = Not merely *merciful*, but *all-merciful*. Christianity claims this is the Triune God's primary attribute that defines Him. And it is His ultimate attitude and activity toward man which then explains the person and work of Jesus. Some religions have a god or gods said to be merciful *at times*, others have a god or gods *incapable of* mercy, and all religions, with one exception, *provide no activity, event, or guarantee* of a god who is *all-merciful*. The exception is Christianity which has God Himself on the cross.