

Could Buddhism Be True?

ORIGINS

Started by:

Where:

When:

SOME FACTS

DIFFERENT BRANCHES (SCHOOLS)

3. Theravada
4. Mahayana
 - Zen
 - Soka Gakkai
 - Tibetan

TEACHINGS

The Four Noble Truths:

5. Life is suffering
6. Suffering is the result of cravings and desires (physical, emotional), good and bad
7. Freeing oneself (or eliminating your “self” altogether) of cravings, etc. will free you from suffering.
8. The way to be free is by the Eight Fold Path (to nirvana)

The Eightfold Path:

Right view, intention, thought, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, concentration (meditation)

The Wheel of Life: birth, suffering, death, reincarnation

Karma: Cause and effect. Circumstances (good or bad) are the result of actions, thoughts in a prior existence. Those in this life will affect your next.

For more information, visit www.PleaseConvinceMe.com

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Problems and Contradictions

11. Writings are dispersed, varied, contradictory, of questionable origins, etc. By what standard are they considered authoritative? Many scholars will say that it is impossible to say with confidence, "This is what Gautama Buddha said..."
12. If life is just suffering what about people who don't really have it that bad?
13. What REAL remedy is there for people who are suffering?
14. Loss of consciousness---how then do you know when you achieve Nirvana or anything?
15. If there is no self or soul, how does reincarnation work?
16. If buddhas and bodhisattvas are around to help others in achieving Nirvana what happened to self-effort?
17. What proof is there and how do you know that some have achieved buddhahood (enlightenment)---a twinkle in their eye?
18. If everything is an illusion and the self/soul ceases to exist then why bother?
19. Buddhist philosophy leads to social and personal apathy
20. Buddhism can result hopelessness (high rate of suicide)

Biblical Differences with Buddhism

15. God exists. He can be known and experienced.
16. The universe were created by God and therefore real.
17. Man is real in body, soul and spirit.
18. Physical life is temporary but valuable and worth living.
19. The goal of good living is to honor God and demonstrate His worth so others would desire to know Him.
20. Suffering is the result of sin, rebellion against God.
21. Sin is not an abstract or a relative concept. Clearly defined.
22. The ultimate originator of sin is Satan, God's enemy.
23. Suffering is not always bad---it can teach, it can discipline, it can provide a contrast to joy.
24. God can give joy in the midst of suffering.
25. We do not cease to exist after physical death. We will all be judged for our actions.
26. Man can never achieve perfection, freedom from suffering, or any permanent, more noble existence by self effort.
27. The way of "escape" is only through faith in Jesus Christ and to be spiritual reborn with God's life through the Holy Spirit.
28. The ultimate purpose of life is not to better ourselves or society---it is to glorify and express God and enjoy Him forever.

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