

The Ever-Ready Christian

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1 Peter 3:13-17

- I. We must be ready for action. 3:13-14
 - 1. Seek what is good 3:13
 - 2. Suffer for what is right 3:14

- II. We must be ready with an answer. 3:15
 - 1. We must know what we believe
 - 2. We must know why we believe
 - a. Be ready to defend the faith
 - b. Have a reason(s) for defending the faith

- III. We must be ready in attitude. 3:15-17
 - 1. Develop godly character 3:15
 - 2. Develop a good conscience 3:16
 - 3. Develop good conduct 3:16
 - 4. Develop a godly confidence 3:17

*****Insert Chart from Publisher**

Seven Major World Views

Atheism: A World
Without God



Theism: A World Plus
An Infinite God

A World That Is God

Deism: A World On
Its Own Made by God

Finite Theism: A World
with a Finite God

Panentheism: A World
In God

Polytheism:
A World With Many
Gods

Four Views of the Interrelationship of Christianity And Other Religions

Christianity	→	1. Universalism	←	Other
	→	2. Syncretism/Pluralism	←	World
	→	3. Inclusivism	←	Religions
	→	4. Exclusivism	←	

1. **UNIVERSALISM** – all people will ultimately be saved by God or gods.
2. **SYNCRETISM/PLURALISM** – all world religions have their truth and accomplish basically the same thing—thus all ultimately will be saved by their own faith (Pluralism is the path to Universalism).
3. **INCLUSIVISM** – Christ’s work of salvation is essential and universal in application, and it will be applied even to those not aware of its benefits, but who have lived morally and upright (Karl Raher and “anonymous Christians”).
4. **EXCLUSIVISM** – Christianity (and Christ) is the ***ONLY WAY OF SALVATION*** (*John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5*). Other world religions may have partial religious insights (all truth is God’s truth), but only Christianity is *sufficient for salvation*.

SIX POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER WORLD RELIGIONS

1. The Christian God is personal.
2. Christ alone is Savior for mankind.
3. All persons are of GREAT VALUE as image bearers of God.
4. A Christian philosophy of history is purposive and spiral/linear.
5. Christian soteriology offers salvation by GRACE through FAITH alone to all.
6. Christian eschatology is based on the hope of the RESURRECTION, of which Jesus is the first (fruit).

Confronting Naturalism

A Comparison of the Worldviews of Naturalism and Supernaturalism

	NATURALISM	SUPERNATURALISM
ONTOLOGY	Only nature exists	God is over nature
EPISTEMOLOGY (how we come to have knowledge)	Almost exclusive use of the scientific/empirical method	Holistic epistemology
COSMOLOGY	Pre-existence of matter; Autonomy of nature; Nature functions with regularity according to fixed laws	Creation <i>ex nihilo</i> ; Contingency of nature; Nature functions with regularity, but God can interrupt that regularity with miracles
THEOLOGY	Pantheistic, process, or deistic view of God, if any	(mono) Theistic God
ANTHROPOLOGY	Principle of Continuity (humans differ from subhumans only quantitatively)	Persons are created in God's image (humans differ from subhumans qualitatively)
AXIOLOGY	Meliorism (the world is neutral, but can be improved)	Creationism (the world is created good but is fallen because of sin)
ETHICS	Tends toward utilitarianism (best for the most)	Objective ethics, based on God's Word and doing God's will in one's life
HISTORY	Indeterminism or Determinism	Linear, Purposive, Redemptive

Contrasting Evangelical and Liberal Theology

Evangelical Theology

1. The Bible IS the Word of God.
2. Jesus Christ is THE Son of God in a sense which no other is.
3. The birth of Jesus was SUPERNATURAL.
4. The death of Jesus was SUBSTITUTIONARY.
5. Man is the product of special CREATION.
6. Man is a SINNER fallen from original righteousness, and apart from God's redeeming grace is hopelessly lost.
7. Man is justified by FAITH in the atoning blood of Christ; result—supernatural regeneration from ABOVE.

Liberal Theology

1. The Bible CONTAINS or BECOMES the Word of God. *"Man judges the book."*
2. Jesus Christ is A son of God in the sense which all men are.
3. The birth of Jesus was NATURAL.
4. The death of Jesus was EXEMPLARY.
5. Man is the product of EVOLUTION.
6. Man is the unfortunate VICTIM of his genetics and environment.
7. Man is justified by WORKS in following Christ's example; result—natural development from WITHIN.