

First Words

A. To be a follower of Buddhism is to belong to a very _____ religion

There are 400 million Buddhists in the world making it the fourth largest religion in the world next to Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.

300,000 Buddhists live in the NYC Metro area and that number will continue to grow through immigration and births

B. To be a follower of Buddhism is to be a follower of the _____

The Buddha (The enlightened one) was born in 563 BC. His name is Siddharta Gautama

The Three Phases of his Life

A time of Enjoyment

- He was born into the warrior caste of the Shaka tribe in the town of Kapilavastu in India (this area is now Nepal)
- Legend is that his father sought to shelter him in the palace from all kinds of suffering
- One day he left the palace and encountered old age, sickness, death and the poverty of an Ascetic

A time of Enquiry

- Siddharta was impressed by the countenance of the Ascetic he observed
- He renounced everything, including his wife, his child and his life of luxury
- To discover the source and cure of suffering, he adopted an extreme life of Asceticism

A time of Enlightenment

- Under a fig tree in the city of Bodh Gaya he vowed not to leave until he had attained to enlightenment
- He is tempted by Mara (the evil one) during this time
- After a season the “Middle Way” was revealed to him and he became the enlightened one, the Buddha

- Shortly after his enlightenment Buddha traveled to Benares he preached his first sermon
- This contained the Four Noble Truths
- His followers formed communities called sanghas
- Forty-five years later the Buddha died

The Main Branches of Buddhism

Theravada Buddhism – Buddha is a man not a god. There can be only one Buddha

Mahayana Buddhism – Buddha is a historical manifestation of a universal absolute, there have been many manifestations and their will be at least one more called the “Maitreya Buddhism”

Zen Buddhism – Zen has a sudden illumination called “satori”. It’s saying “Look inside yourself, you are the Buddha.” is famous

C. To be a follower of Buddhism is to embrace these _____

1. The Four Noble Truths

- a. The first noble truth – Life consists of suffering
- b. The second noble truth – Everything is impermanent and ever changing
- c. The third noble truth – The way to liberate oneself from suffering is to eliminate all desire
- d. The fourth noble truth – Desire can be eliminated by following the eight-fold path

Wisdom (Panna)

- 1) Right Understanding
- 2) Right Thought

Ethical Conduct (Sila)

- 3) Right Speech
- 4) Right Action
- 5) Right Livelihood

Mental Discipline (Samadhi)

- 6) Right Effort
- 7) Right Awareness
- 8) Right Meditation

D. To be a follower of Jesus Christ verses to be a follower of Buddhism

- 1. Regarding one's view of _____
- 2. Regarding one's view of the _____
- 3. Regarding one's view of _____ and _____
- 4. Regarding one's view of _____

E. How should a follower of Jesus Christ view Buddhism?

- 1. As a _____ religion that corrupts the simplicity of God's revelation – *2 Corinthians 11:3*
- 2. As a _____ religion that replaces grace/mercy with human effort – *Titus 3:4-6*
- 3. As a _____ religion that promises deification of the participant – *Isaiah 12:12-14*

Why I am a follower of Jesus Christ and not a follower of Buddhism?

- 1. The truth of _____ - over the myth of _____ – *Jeremiah 17:9*
- 2. _____ over Meditation - *Matthew 12:43-45*
- 3. Guaranteed peace with God over illusionary inner peace _____ – *Romans 5:1*
- 4. A _____ God over an inanimate _____ – *1 Timothy 6:17*
- 5. One path to God over _____ to god – *Mark 12:30*

Why I am a Follower of
JESUS CHRIST

NOT A FOLLOWER OF
BUDDHISM

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 at Calvary Chapel