

Life: **Three ways man tries to “tie things together”–answers to: *where from, why here, where doing?***

Religion: A set of beliefs, values, and practices based on the teachings of a spiritual leader.

(From *re-ligare* the Greek word for “tying back together.”)

Pantheist: Identifying the Deity with the universe; **belief** in and worship of all gods.

Agnostic: The **belief** that there can be no proof either that God exists or that God does not.

Atheist: **Believes** God does not exist.

It's impossible for man to discover the “how, when, why” of his existence.

Hebrew and Christian faith hold to physical reality; creator as revealed by God, the Creator. Isa.42:5

Hindu, Buddhist, Taoist traditions hold that reality is only an illusion. No creator.

Christianity: Peace achieved by transformation of our fallen selves. Rom.5:1

The others, peace is achieved in Nirvana: nothingness (i.e., drop of water return to the sea)

Reality is seen as an obstacle to peace.

CREATION: EITHER/OR:

Reality (i.e., matter exists) **or illusion.** Western cultures vs. eastern cultures.

The fact that man tries to determine which one, assumes not only reality exists, but also the inquirer exists.

Eternal or temporal. (Matter cannot be created or destroyed by man.)

If matter is only an illusion it doesn't exist.

Order or chaos.

In chaos, there is no purpose or reason for existence.

Order is seen in the smallest atom to the vastness of the universe.

Order assumes some force (power) greater than human ordered.

Ordered assumes some purpose for organization; chaos has no purpose or organization.

Organization assumes intelligent organizing power or person.

Life assumes a great force produced order, organization, for a purpose.

Life comes from life: assumes some form of life existed beforehand.

Force is found in either living creator or dead matter.

Observe the heavens. Ps.19:1

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:1: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

God: source of power. Act.17:24-28

Created: power in action.

Heavens and the earth: product of creating power.

Man created in the image of God. Gen.1:26-27

God is Spirit. Joh.4:24

God's crowning creation. Ps.8

Given dominate roll over created life. Cf. Gen 1:27

WHY HERE? WHAT PURPOSE FOR LIFE?

Book of Ecclesiastes asks and answers.

In a nutshell: Ecc.12:13 “... **fear God and keep His commandments ...**”

Created for His good pleasure. Phi.2:12-13 “... to will and to work for **His good pleasure.**”

WHERE GOING (AFTER LIFE)?

Three Truths:

We had nothing to do with coming into this world. 1Ti.6:7

We cannot avoid leaving this life. Heb.9:27

All will give an account of deeds done. Rom14:11-12, 1Pe.4:5, 2sCo,5:10

KNOW YOUR ROOTS, ACCEPT LIFE FOR WHAT IT IS, PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

Rom.5:12, 3:23 All sin, fall short of the glory of God.

Salvation from sin. Heb.9:28 “...Christ having been offered once to bear the sins of many...”

Cleansed by the blood of Christ. Rom.5:8-9, 1Jo.1:7, Eph.1:7

Joh.3:16 “whosoever” means you and I.