

Ephesians 5

5:1

See under 1:15-18.

5:2

See under 1:2 & 1:3-6.

5:11

Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Probably best illustrated in 1 Chronicles 14:

1 Chronicles 14:11-12 So they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. Then David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water." Therefore they called the name of that place ⁶Baal Perazim. 12 And when they left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.

There was no "inclusivity" or "pluralism;" these were not appreciated or investigated; not studied or admired; they were burned. It wasn't hard for David to see Who the "best God" was. This was easy. Ascetics are not a consideration. Separation is the consideration. Romans 16:19 further states that we should rather seek a certain ignorance of abomination once we taste of its vanity.

False gods have followers and those followers, although sincere, are wrong. Perhaps the best example of this is Hinduism—huge not only because of its followers but because of the other religions that have spawned under its influence.¹ There is no grasping this religion because of its continued evolution and profuse fluidity.²

They have holy literature (*vedas*),³ a "great God of space and healing" (their version of a creator of this world), an apparent "trinity" (which they would call a "Trimutri" or "three in one God") named "Brahma," a sort of "new birth" or re-birth (reincarnation), a type of heaven (*nirvana*), spiritual disciplines of devotion (like *yoga*),⁴ a "law of the harvest" (*karma*),⁵ a moral code (*Dharma*),⁶ and an apparent flesh-and-blood manifestation of "God".⁷ Now, the fact that this religion predates Christ makes this intriguing and seems to bolster the ideals of the pluralists who say things like "all religions are virtually the same" with all their Christ-figures. Of course,

⁶Lit. *Master of Breakthroughs*

¹Buddhism, Scientology, Christian Science, Zoroastrianism, New Age, types of Spiritism (with their planes of existence following death), etc...

²McDowell & Don Steward *Handbook of Today's Religions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983), 283; complete with symbols who stand for symbols which stand for symbols (infinitely so on).

³Which are records of the earliest religionists knew and spoke to their disciples. As well as some *smitri* ("what is remembered"); there are also some "devotional materials" called *bhakti*. I am afraid that is just the beginning. *Ibid.*, 284-285. Also, the best known (although not the earliest) book in their religion is *Bhagavad Gita*; *Ibid.*, 286.

⁴Flawed through the idea that you should empty your mind while Paul says "put on" after one "puts off": In other words, put something in your mind.

⁵*Ibid.*, 283.

⁶*Ibid.*, 284.

⁷Krishna; *Ibid.*, 286.

we should immediately point out that this religion is works-based. Why do we not place this next to our “Christian religion?” Because it should be destroyed in our hearts as it was in the camps of the Jews (1 Chronicles 14 passage above).

In reality the reason most of these principles are found in a myriad of regions and religions worldwide is because all of the nations of the world was together under similar influences until Genesis 11 and the Tower of Babel. We believers are required to topple so-called “Christian” idea (2 Corinthians 10:5).

“Maybe Christianity is a copy-cat religion.”

Or, maybe Satan really is the great counterfeiter (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).