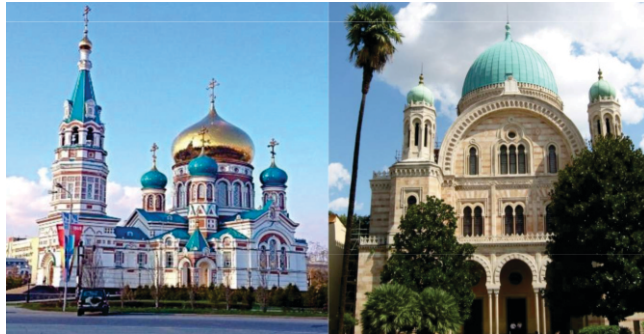


# *Judaism & Christianity*

*Inter-faith Harmony*



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*Judaism*

*&*

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*Inter-faith Harmony*

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## **Series introduction**

Suppose, a person is living in an isolated island and he has tasted only bananas in his whole life. Although he has heard about other fruits like mangoes, apples and grapes but never tasted them. If he claims that banana is the best fruit on this planet, yes, he can claim but his claim is not based on any logic or rational because he has never tasted other fruits in this world. In the same way, well is the whole world for a frog living in it.

Similarly, people follow the religion of their parent and they consider that their religion is right and superior and all other religions are wrong and inferior, without having any knowledge about them. The purpose of this book is to create positive attitude about other religions and their followers.

The verses and sayings of scholars from Judaism and Christianity are put together in a logical sequence so that readers can understanding both the religions and also pursue righteousness to achieve the ultimate goal of Eternal life. Mostly, people are wasting their precious time on useless, unproductive and worthless issues. We should concentrate in improving our own spiritual life and try to fulfill various obligations and responsibilities which our own religion demands. Some scholars talk less in the favour of their own

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religion but talk more against other religion. No person has any right to criticize other faith. Our words and actions should strengthen love not hatred in the society. If a person is hurting others by his words, then he should understand that his words are not from the Almighty God. May God gives us wisdom and power to shed away all types of evil and wickedness in our lives and enable us to pursue holiness, goodness and purity which God demands from every human being.

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## **Repentance**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Eliezar said, "Be slow to anger but quick to repent."

Mishna

Rabbi Jacob said, "An hour of repentance is better than a life time of pleasure."      Mishna

### **Christianity**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Ac 3:19

Be honest in admitting your errors and sins.      John Calvin

## **Sinners**

### **Judaism**

The rabbi said, "Try to bring peace to the hearts of sinners, so they may know happiness, both in this world and the next."

Gemara

### **Christianity**

Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Mt 9:12,13

## **Evil**

### **Judaism**

It is easier to abandon an evil habit today than tomorrow.

Rabbi Cohen : Hasidism

God is everywhere, his eye observes all that we do. So let us refrain from all evil.      Philo : On the Giants



## **Christianity**

Avoid every kind of evil. 1Th 5:22

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ro 12:21

There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil. Ro 2:9

## **Wicked**

### **Judaism**

I have greater love for wicked people who know they are wicked, than for righteous people who know they are righteous, for no human being is entirely free from sin, and the Lord hates deceit. Rabbi of Lublin : Hasidism

### **Christianity**

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God. 1Co 6:9

## **Obedience**

### **Judaism**

When people follow God as their shepherd, they gain wealth that can never be destroyed. Philo : On Husbandry

### **Christianity**

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. Ro 2:13

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God simply invites us to obey his laws, leaving us free to accept or reject that invitation.      Jacob Arminius

## **Actions**

### **Judaism**

It is more important to act than to speak.      Mishna  
Scholarship (knowledge) without action is vain.

Saadya : Beliefs and Dogmas

### **Christianity**

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.      Mt 7:24

Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.      Jas 1:22

## **Selfishness**

### **Judaism**

If you use your abilities solely for your own benefit, you will commit spiritual suicide.      Hillel : Pirke Aboth

### **Christianity**

Where you have envy and selfish ambition there you find disorder and every evil practice.      Jas 3:16

## **Purify**

### **Judaism**

If we cultivate the habit of thanking God for all things, and

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striving to honour him in all we do, we shall purify ourselves of sin; we shall cleanse our minds of evil thoughts, our bodies of evil actions, and our mouths of evil speech.

Philo : On the Immutability of God

### **Christianity**

Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he (God) is pure. 1Jn 3:3

Dear friends let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence of God. 2Co 7:1

## **Truth**

### **Judaism**

A person come to the sage, and asked, what is the finest quality that a person can acquire? The sage (wise man) replied, curiosity about the truth.

Ibn Gabriol : The Choice of Pearls

### **Christianity**

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life." No one comes to the father except through me. Jn 14:6

Then you will know the truth and the truth set you free."

Jn 8:32

Now, that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth.

1Pe 1:22

## **Righteousness**

### **Judaism**

Do you wish to be a disciple of God's word? Then you should

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prefer moderation to indulgence, propriety to impropriety, virtue to vice. The foundations, on which you build your entire life, should be self control, humility, and courage. Your will should be stronger than the temptations of wealth, pleasure and popularity. Philo : On Dreams

Righteousness consists in following the right way of life.

Mishna

### **Christianity**

But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. Ro 8:10

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Ro 14:17

## **Peacemakers**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Ammi said, "A single shrew Judgment that brings peace to those in conflict, is worth a lifetime of religion." Midrash

### **Christianity**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Mt 5:9

## **Speech**

### **Judaism**

Saying too much encourages sin. Misha

### **Christianity**

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a

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tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.                   Jas 1:26

### **Self-Control**

#### **Judaism**

If you cannot control your own temper, how can you control other people?                   Ibn Gabriol : The Choice of Pearls

#### **Christianity**

Be self-controlled and alert, your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for some one to devour.

1Pe 5:8

### **Law**

#### **Judaism**

Just as water is free to all people, the law of God is free to all people. Just as water brings life to the world, so the law of God brings life to the world. Just as water washes away dirt, so the law of God washes away evil.                   Midrash

#### **Christianity**

In deed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves even though they do not have the law.                   Ro 2:14

### **Judging**

#### **Judaism**

Rabbi Simeon said, “You have no right to condemn the sins of others.                   Midrash

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**Christianity**

Do not Judge, or you too will be Judged. Mt 7:1

**Generosity****Judaism**

Rabbi Ismail said, “Be obedient to superiors, be generous towards those who seek your help and be friendly towards everyone.” Mishna

**Christianity**

Give generously to others in need. Eph 4:28

Give and it will be given to you. Lk 6:38

**Goodness****Judaism**

An hour of good deeds is better than a life time of amusement.

Mishna

**Christianity**

Test everything, hold on to the good. 1Th 5:21

**Love****Judaism**

Rabbi Akiba said, “Do not do to others what you would not want done to yourself.” Midrash

**Christianity**

Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a

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summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

Mt 7:12

## **Enemy**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Samuel said: Do not rejoice when your enemy falls; do not be glad when your enemy stumbles. Mishna

Seek reconciliation with you enemies for this truly brings joy.

Saadya : Beliefs and Dogmas

### **Christianity**

Love you enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. Lk 6:27,28

## **Thoughts**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Hanina said: whose minds are filled with idle thoughts, ruin themselves. Mishana

### **Christianity**

Constantly fill your mind with thoughts of his glory; and do not allow your imagination to lure your mind away from God.

Basil of Caesarea

## **Humble**

### **Judaism**

Just as wine cannot be kept in precious vessels of gold and silver, but only in cheap earthenware vessels, so the law of God can only be kept by those who are humble. Midrash

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If you are humble, people take pleasure in assisting you.

Ibn Gabriol : The Choice of Pearls

### **Christianity**

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

1Pe 5:5

For whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Mt 23:12

## **Kindness**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Kappara said, "Simple acts of kindness frequently bring unexpected rewards." Midrash

### **Christianity**

Always try to be kind to each other, and to every one else.

1Ti 5:15

Show kindness and consideration to one another.

Ignatius of Antioch : Magnesians

## **Peace**

### **Judaism**

The more, good you do, the more peace you will enjoy.

Hillel : Prike Aboth

### **Christianity**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart. Col 3:15

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Now, may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. 2Th 3:16

## **Choice**

### **Judaism**

God has given human beings the capacity to choose between good and evil in order that human beings might elevate themselves to his own status by choosing goodness nobility and virtue. Philo : On he Immutability of God

### **Christianity**

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it. Mt 7:13,14

So don't ask any more questions about the large number of people who lost. For when they had the opportunity to choose, they despised God most high had contempt for his law, and refused to follow his ways. 2Esd 8:55,6

## **Company**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Dosa said, "If you keep the company of fools, then you will bring ruin on yourself." Mishna

### **Christianity**

Do not be misled, "Bad company corrupts good character."

1Co 15:33

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## **Righteous**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Jose said: 'The Flax dealer, who knows that his flax is good, pounds it, because his pounding improves it, the more he beats it, the more it glistens. But when he knows that his flax is bad, he does not dare pound it, because it would split. Similarly, God is tough with the righteous but not with the wicked.' Midrash

Rabbi Jonathan said, 'The potter does not test cracked pots; he knows that if he were to tap them once, they would break. But he tests the good pots, because he knows that, no matter how many times he taps them, they do not break. Similarly God does not test the wicked, but only tests the righteous.'

Midrash

Rabbi Jochan said: 'Do not regard yourself as righteous simply because you have studied religion and morality.' Mishna

### **Christianity**

Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good, he must seek peace and pursue it. For, the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. 1Pe 3:10-12

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as instruments of righteousness. Ro 6:13

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He who does what is right is righteous, Just as he (God) is righteous. 1Jn 3:7

## **Prayers**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Simeon said: 'Do not pray mechanically, but let your prayers come from the heart.' Mishna

Rabbi Meir said: 'When you are addressing God, your words should always be few (in your prayers).' Gemara

### **Christianity**

Learn to pray without ceasing. Augustine of Hippo

Go somewhere private in order to pray. John Climacus

Keep on praying. 1Th 5:17

## **Study**

### **Judaism**

The more you study, the wiser you will grow.

Hillel : Pirke Aboth

### **Christianity**

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it. Rev 1:3

## **Knowledge**

### **Judaism**

Where there is no knowledge, there is no insight. Mishna

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**Christianity**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him is glory both now and forever.

2Pe 3:18

**Wisdom****Judaism**

Devote the greatest effort to the acquisition of wisdom.

Saadya : Belief and Dogmas

If you cultivate wisdom and learning, old age will be the season of harvest; otherwise old age will be winter.

Rabbi Cohen : Hasidim

A person came to the sage (wise man), and asked: "How is wisdom acquired? The sage replied, the first step is silence. The second step is listening. The third step is remembering. The fourth step is practice. And the fifth step is teaching others.

Ibn Gabriol : The Choice of Pearls

**Christianity**

So don't worry about how to answer the charges against you, for I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply! Lk 21:14-15

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Col 4:5

**Serve the Lord****Judaism**

Rabbi Joe said: Let all your actions be in the service of God.

Mishna

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**Christianity**

Serve the Lord with your whole heart. Let your hope keep you joyful. Rom 12:11

Every Christian believer is worthy to be a priest.

Martin Luther

**Proclaim**

**Judaism**

If you are an eloquent preacher or lecturer, dedicate to God all that you say. Philo : On the Change of Names

**Christianity**

I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. Ro 15:19

We are eager to proclaim our faith to others. Justin

**Patient**

**Judaism**

Endure insults with patient. Rabbi Leib : Hasidism

**Christianity**

You should be patient, whatever trials you have to endure.

Basil of Caesarea

Be patient with everyone. 1Th 5:14

**With us**

**Judaism**

Rabbi Hnanyah said: 'When two people sit together and

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discuss spiritual matters, then the Spirit of God rests upon them.’  
Mishna

### **Christianity**

For, where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. Mt 18:20

## **Courage**

### **Judaism**

A General received news that the enemy had massacred his finest Regiment. He was distressed. His wife overheard and went in to his room. She said; I too have received news and it is far worse than the news you have received. She said: ‘I have seen loss of courage on your face and that is far worse than the loss of a Regiment. Rabbi : Henech Hasidim.

### **Christianity**

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. 1Co 16:13

## **False Teachers**

### **Judaism**

Rabbi Jehudah said: Be cautions in your teachings, because false teaching can lead others in to sin. Mishna

### **Christianity**

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. Mt 7:15

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If religion depended on reason, theologians would always excel in holiness; experience tells us this is not so.

Nikolous Von Zinzendorf

## **Rituals**

### **Judaism**

Unless the heart is directed towards God, religious observance counts for nothing. Bahya : Guide to the duties of the Heart  
Philosophers and preachers should divert their attention away from out word religion, and concentrate on people's emotions and feelings towards God.

Bahaya : Guide to the duties of the Heart

### **Christianity**

Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teaching. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.

Heb 13:9

There is nothing to be gained from dressing in religious robes, living in religious place, under taking religious activities, fasting for religious purposes and so on. All these relate to the body and hence are wasted; besides, they encourage hypocrisy, since they can be done without any devotion to God.

Martin Luther

## **Blessings**

### **Judaism**

God blessed Jacob; when he was confronted by large problems,

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he had large blessings in store. Zohar

### **Christianity**

Lord, Out of justice you bless the righteous; and out of kindness you bless the wicked. Anselm : Proslogion

How we praise God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ. Eph 1:3

## **Happiness**

### **Judaism**

God is our shepherd and he is leading us on the path of holiness, whose destination is perfect happiness.

Philo : On Husbandry

### **Christianity**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Php 4:4

## **Thankful**

### **Judaism**

Strive for wealth in proportion to the needs of your family and always give thanks to God for what you acquire.

Saadya : Beliefs and Dogmas

No one is so lacking in gifts from God to have no reason for gratitude (Thankfulness)

Phillo : On the Changes of Names

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**Christianity**

Through thanking God in all circumstances you will learn to conform your will to his. Augustine of Hippo

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1Th 5:18

**Eternal Life**

**Judaism**

Love life on earth as an opportunity to become wise. Also to look forward to death as the gateway to a higher life.

Saadya : Beliefs and Dogmas

**Christianity**

We yearn for the life which is eternal and pure; we strive to dwell with God, who created and fashioned all things.

Justin

For, the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ro 6:23