



Were Bahá'u'lláh and Jesus Christ Great Manifestations of God? By Karen Sue Nyquist



1. **Where Do Baha'is and Christians Agree?** - There are some areas in which Christians and Baha'is can agree. (1) These include:

- a. Loving and serving one true God
- b. Commitment to moral behavior-faithful marriages; no homosexuality, drugs, alcohol, abortion
- c. Commitment to moral character - honesty, compassion, and justice
- d. Confirming equality of all people, men and women, all races, no prejudice, no racism
- e. Religious freedom and the right to seek religious truth
- f. Poverty has a spiritual solution
- g. Reason and science are compatible with religion
- h. Universal education

2. **The basic beliefs about God and His nature are contradictory in the major world faiths.** - "Vedantic Hinduism is polytheistic (many non-creating gods) while Bhakti Hinduism is henotheistic (devotion to one non-creating incarnation of god among many gods). Buddhism is atheistic (no god, no creator, no creation) while Zoroastrianism and Islam are monotheistic (one creator God who is so transcendent that he cannot become in-fleshed and cannot be known.)" Christianity is a Trinitarian-monotheistic religion (one God who is a three-in-one essential being, one of these becoming in-fleshed). (1) **Baha'i teaches that major religions were corrupted, so God sent divine Great Manifestations with the truth, whose words "represent the infallible word of God."** (2) **How could the Great Manifestations of God have such contradictory concepts of Him? How can Baha'i unite all major religions when they fundamentally disagree about the nature of God?**

3. **Bahá'u'lláh was the Persian founder of the Baha'i religion. What did he say about Christianity, Jesus, and the Gospel?** - "As to the position of Christianity, let it be stated without any hesitation or equivocation that its divine origin is unconditionally acknowledged, that the Sonship and Divinity of Jesus Christ are fearlessly asserted, that the divine inspiration of the Gospel is fully recognized..." (3)

4. **What does Christianity say about Jesus? Christianity is based on the teachings of the Bible. The Bible, talking about Jesus, says: - "God was manifested in the flesh"** (1 Timothy 3:16). "In the beginning was the Word (*Jesus*), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made (*created*) through Him (*Jesus*), and without Him nothing was made that was made" (1 John 1:1-3). **Jesus is a manifestation of God and He is the creator God.**

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35). **If Jesus' words are "infallible" and will be preserved (Psalm 12:6-7), not corrupted, then they do not need to be replaced by any succeeding Great Manifestation. Therefore, God the Father would not need to send any other Great Manifestation after sending Jesus Christ, His Son.**

5. **Can We Know God?** - Bahá'u'lláh "taught that the knowledge of God is limited to those attributes and qualities which are perceptible to us, and thus direct knowledge of God is not possible." (2) But: **a)** Jeremiah, a Jewish prophet, declared that people could know God. "Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, **That he understands and knows Me,**" (Jeremiah 9:23-24). **b)** "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for **they all shall know Me,** from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord" (Jeremiah 31:34). **c)** "So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, **as a man speaks to his friend**" (Exodus 33:11). **d)** Jesus Christ said, "And this is eternal life, that **they may know You, the only true God,** and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). John, a prophet/apostle of Jesus, said "We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (1 John 4:6-7). **Yes, we can know God.**

If Bahá'u'lláh and Jesus are both Great Manifestations of God and teach truth, how can they disagree on such a basic belief on whether or not we can know God?

6. Remember, Baha'u'llah said, "Jesus' nature is divine" so His message is infallible. - Jesus declared: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). **Jesus is the only way to God, the Father.**

If Jesus is divine, and His message is infallible (true), and He said He is the only way to God the Father, how can other religions' teachers be true when they contradict what Jesus said? How can other religions be a way to God without believing in Jesus?

7. As centuries pass, people strayed from the original teachings of God and His Word. - When that happened, God sent prophets to bring people back to His original word. He did not send another Great Manifestation of God to start a new religion. God sent the prophet Moses to **a) speak His word to His people, and b) give them His covenant (Exodus 24:6-8). c) Moses performed many great miracles before multitudes of witnesses (Book of Exodus). d) Then he prophesied, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear," (Deuteronomy 18:15).**

8. The Bible identifies Jesus as "the prophet like Moses." - "Truly this is the Prophet;" (John 7:40). a) Jesus spoke the word of God, b) He performed many great miracles before multitudes, and c) He gave God's people a new covenant. "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). d) Jesus prophesied He'd die and would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up" (Matthew 17:22-23). But Jesus did not come to start the new religion Christianity, He came to fulfill the prophesies of Judaism. When they rejected Jesus, those people who did follow Him were called Christians. Baha'u'llah was not "the prophet like Moses."

9. Jesus was much more than "that prophet," He was sent to be the "Savior of the World." His blood paid for or remitted the sins of those who believe in Him. "For God so loved the world that **He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him** should not perish (*die and perish in hell*) but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but **that the world through Him might be saved**" (John 3:16-1). "Believe on the **Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,**" (Acts 6:31). **Jesus Christ is the One and Only Great Manifestation of God.** No other person can compare to Him. **Jesus is: God, the Creator, That Prophet, God's Son, and the Savior of the World.**

10. Would you like to know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? If you would, then tell Him. **Suggested Prayer:** Dear God, I believe that what I have just learned is true. I believe Jesus Christ and want to follow Him. I want to have everlasting life and a relationship with the Prophet, Your Son. I know that I am a sinner and that Jesus died to pay for my sins, then rose again. I know that You are calling me and I want to obey You. Please, continue to teach me Your way. I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Name _____ Date _____



Now that you have asked Jesus into your life, He will start revealing Himself to you. But to steadily improve your relationship with Jesus, spend time with Him. Start talking (praying) to Him. Read the Bible, where He reveals Himself even more clearly so you can get to know God. Go to a good church where you feel God's presence, they preach and teach the Bible, and you can fellowship with other believers. We learn much about God from each other.

(1) "Breaking the Baha'i Code: Understanding and Evangelizing Members of the Bahai Faith," Key J. Carrigan, Ph.D., inplaintsite.org.

(2) ... Wikipedia , https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_the_Baha'i_Faith

(3) "Baha'i Faith and Christianity - Baha'is of the United States," <https://www.bahai.s/christianity>,



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BAHA'I PRONUNCIATION GUIDE (1)

Abdu'l Baha (ob-dool' bah-hah', accent on last syllables) Bab (bob)
Babi (bob-ee', accent on last syllable) Baha (bah-hah', accent on last syllable)
Baha'i (bah-high', accent on last syllable) Baha'is (bah-highs', accent on last syllable)
Bahá'u'lláh (bah-ha'-oo-lah', accents on 2nd and last syllables)
Mirza Husayn Ali (meer-za' hoo-sane' ah-lee', accent on final syllables)