



Can Christianity and Paganism Work Together? (Part I)

Exodus 20:1,3: (NASB) ¹*Then God spoke all these words, saying,*
³*You shall have no other gods before Me.*



Our religious world has changed dramatically. In the bygone days of generations past, we had clear lines that marked our differences. Christianity seemed to have clear and unmistakable differences from religions like Hinduism, Buddhism and Druidism. Our one God and one Savior approach stood in an entirely different category from the multiple god eternal journey that mystics and Pagans adhered to. Here we are in the age of technology, and some of those lines and distinctions seem to be blurred and fading. There are movements now announcing that we are all really on the

same journey of enlightenment and walking side-by-side on similar paths. So, is this a good thing? As Christians, should we embrace these seemingly progressive steps, or should we run the other way?

Our conversation will examine what Paganism is and attempt to understand how it works. This is a monumental task. We will look at those who hold these beliefs, which are contrary to Christianity at every turn, with the same respect and decency that we would want them to see us.

Let's begin with an audio clip to introduce Paganism.



I am a Pagan, The Many Faces of the Occult, theatlantic.com

- I am a Pagan. I am a part of the whole of nature. The rocks, the animals, the plants, the elements that are my relative. I am a Pagan. I pay attention to the seasons within myself. Beginnings, growth, harvest, endings, rest and beginnings again. I am a Pagan. We're all looking for answers. We don't claim that we have all the right answers, but we have the right answers for us. I live a normal life like everybody else and I'm a Pagan.*



There is nothing wrong with appreciating nature. Appreciating nature is a basis of Paganism, but there is much more to it.

(Source: "Understanding Paganism," www.kheopsinternational.com/blog/understanding-Paganism/) As it was in ancient time and so it is today, Paganism is based on the patterns and agricultural cycles of the earth. It is also based on the belief that everything is alive. The earth and all of her inhabitants, animals, plants, oceans, even the air is connected and dependent on one another. This belief extends to the planets, stars and universe; everyone and everything are conjoined. The divine is recognized in all and manifests itself in the circle of life.

- Paganism is an umbrella term for earth-based faiths. Some examples are the Shamans, Druids and Native Americans.
- "Mother Earth" is a life force, and they utilize her blessings such as flowers, herbs, trees, stones, natural metals, crystals, leaves, stems, animals, humans and other natural objects.



- Modern Paganism seeks to revive or be influenced by historical Pagan beliefs. The movements within it are diverse and do not share a single set of beliefs, practices or texts.
- Paganism is rising around the world. Norse Paganism features the Viking gods and is Iceland's fastest-growing, state-sponsored religion. Lithuania's Pagan folklore group was just granted state recognition. It is said to be the fastest growing religion in the United Kingdom.
- Wicca, sometimes called "white witchcraft," is considered the largest and best-known form of modern Paganism. We will explore this further in Part II.

We will compare similarities and differences between Christianity and Paganism.

The Bible's creation account in Genesis:

Genesis 1:1-3: (NASB) ¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light.

God is the original moving force of everything. *In the beginning* - it did not just happen - *God created the heavens and the earth*. This is a very specific, dynamic approach.

Genesis 1:11-12: (NASB) ¹¹Then God said, Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them; and it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.

The process continues. Again, we see that *God said*. He initiated the earth sprouting vegetation and bearing fruit. *God saw that it was good*. We already have a strong distinction.



This is a major difference.

(Source: "Understanding Paganism," www.kheopsinternational.com/blog/understanding-Paganism/) The Pagan calendar, also known as the Wheel of the Year, marks the earth's four seasons, tracks the sun's continual journey through the sky and the waxing and waning cycles of the moon. It is a symbol of the circle of life, representing the continual birth, death, and renewal cycle as conveyed by the changing seasons.

Pagans follow the cycles, the circle of life. This circle of life certainly exists. How is this different from Christianity?

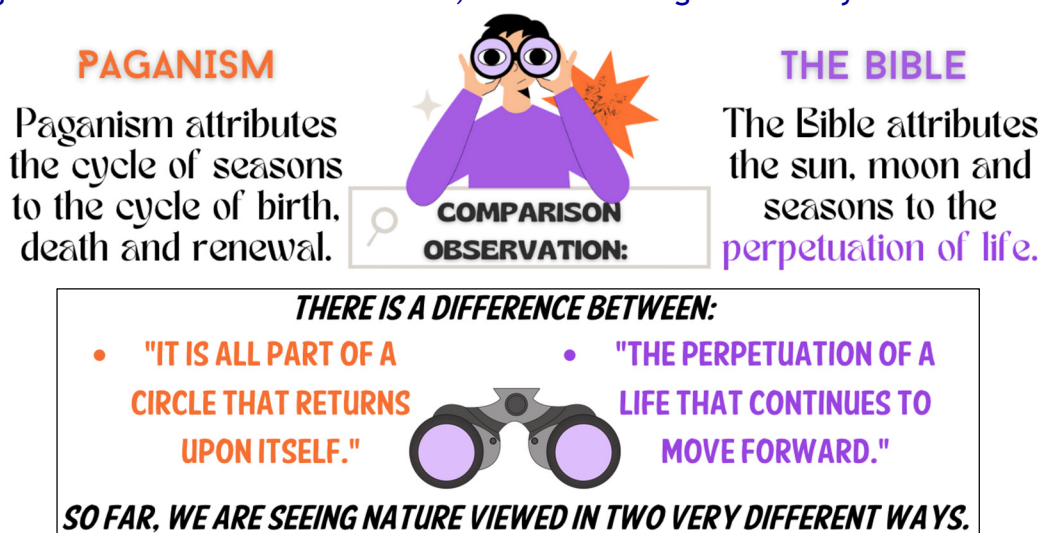


Biblical creation continues:

Genesis 1:14-15,17-18: (NASB) ¹⁴Then God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; ¹⁵and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth; and it was so. ¹⁷God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

God puts *lights...in the heavens to mark the seasons, and for the days and the years*. There is a sense here that it is for the measuring and moving forward of His plan. This is just a hint of one of the major differences.

Paganism is about the circle of life, a never-ending renewal cycle.



(Source: "Understanding Paganism," www.kheopsinternational.com/blog/understanding-Paganism/) Paganism honors the divine in all of its forms: male, female or genderless. Female energies and attributes manifest themselves as goddesses and male energies and attributes as gods. Each must be represented in balance showing the partnership, interconnection and dependence on one another.

This is interesting. We have done a lot of research in past years on Paganism and this is the first time we have come across a description of Paganism that says it honors the divine in all of its forms: male, female or genderless. It seems like "genderless" has been added in the last several years. It may indicate that Pagans are opening the door to say everybody is welcome here - inclusivism. However, traditional Paganism is very male and female oriented.

We mentioned earlier how it is a diverse belief system. It is impossible to say, "Paganism is..." and name just one thing. It is a little like a restaurant buffet where you individually choose what you want on your plate.

For example, some views include:

(Source: <https://www.patheos.com/library/pagan/beliefs/ultimate-reality-and-divine-beings>)

- All things are divine and the divine is in - and one with - all things.
- Polytheism - there are multiple gods, goddesses and/or other spiritual beings. There is both our material world and a spiritual realm where the deities live.



- Humanity itself is divine, and nature is holy simply because it is home to the divine. The earth becomes a spirit realm because humanity is divine.
- Animism - there is a spirit or consciousness to every animal, plant and inanimate object. All things are enchanted and therefore sacred.

We can see in these descriptions that Paganism absolutely reveres nature. In most, if not all forms of Paganism, there is a reverence of nature as having this deep and abiding power.

Biblical creation continues:

Genesis 1:26-27: (NASB) ²⁶Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. ²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.



Was Adam created divine?

No, because Adam eventually died. Divinity does not die. Divinity is self-perpetuating. It will become apparent that this is a major difference between Christianity and Paganism.



Startling revelations from Genesis 2

PAGANISM

Paganism attributes divinity to everything – it finds the divine in all things.



THE BIBLE

The Bible proclaims that **God's divine will** was to give the humanity created in His likeness dominion over the earth as mortal beings.

There is a major difference here between the mortality of man and the divinity of “all things.” This difference is great enough so that both cannot be true at the same time. When we look to see if Paganism and Christianity can work together, we are beginning to see they do NOT mix.

Community safety and belonging, *The Many Faces of the Occult*, theatlantic.com

- *I definitely have a community here. I look around and I feel safe that I don't have to hide who I am. Doing rituals and casting spells, I couldn't imagine a day without it. It's kind of fun we can share Paganism together. My daughter and I both became Pagan to help connect us. The fact is, we're all here together, and we're all searching for meaning. Throw all our clothes and jobs away and we are all the same. It's just a different way of life. Normal is a very subjective term because we are all quirky, slightly crazy. It is a form of freedom.*



These are good words: “community” - “fun” - “family connection” - “quirky” - “freedom” - all we are missing is puppies and chocolate! We get a sense of drawing or beckoning; that we can be relaxed and welcome here. We can have a place, be recognizable, and not have to worry about being included. Who doesn’t want that? There is certainly some value in this; however, we need to understand what it is we are putting our belief into to get these feelings.

(Source: “Understanding Paganism,” www.kheopsinternational.com/blog/understanding-Paganism/) Examples include the Earth Goddess; she is the fertile earth giving life to all earthly creatures. And, the Green Man symbolizes life, the eternal cycle of death and regeneration. He is symbolic of the union mankind has with nature.



“The Green Man” god is said to be the ultimate, omnipresent guardian of the forest. He represents the spirits of the trees, plants and foliage. Illustrations show him with leaves, acorns and berries, often with greenery coming out of his mouth. You will probably see decorations of him at your local garden store. He appears on medieval church walls in Europe, in old Scottish cemeteries - this green head shows up in cultures over a large span of time. In modern spring Pagan festivals, he is represented by a young man covered in greenery leading the festival procession.

Biblical creation continues:

Genesis 1:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it...²⁹Then God said, Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you.



Instead of being a part of this interconnected system where all things are equal, God put man on earth and gave him control, telling him he had dominion over these things.

PAGANISM

Paganism attributes life on earth to “Mother Earth.”



THE BIBLE

The Bible tells us God created the earth and its abundance to provide support for the family of humanity.

There are drastic differences between the origins and function of the two belief systems.



The whole process of a beginning purpose is missing in Paganism. “Mother Earth” is not said to have an intelligent-designing thought process. Christianity sees God’s power and wisdom at work in the unfathomable intricacies of that which He created!

There is such harmony, symmetry and variety. It is breathtaking. Think about the colors, fragrances and textures. Only God could provide!



This spiritualized veneration of nature misappropriates God's creation in all things.

All the credit and sacredness belong to Him, not to that which He created.

It is very comforting to have a higher power that is not only powerful, but thoughtful, wise and proactive!

**With such differences in the creation process,
are there any similarities in Christian and Pagan belief systems?**

The answer to this question is definitely going to be determined by the amount of credibility we not only give to Christianity but to the Bible itself. There are growing movements within Christianity that look at biblical teachings with an ever-decreasing respect. Not surprisingly, these perspectives have Pagan ties.



Let's define some terms:

"PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY" is a recent movement within Protestantism. Like Paganism, it is a little hard to define because there is a broad spectrum of beliefs within the movement. According to Wikipedia: "Progressive Christianity, as described by its adherents, is characterized by a willingness to question tradition, acceptance of human diversity, a strong emphasis on social justice and care for the poor and the oppressed, and environmental stewardship of the earth. Progressive Christians have a deep belief in the centrality of the instruction to 'love one another' (John 15:17) within the teachings of Jesus Christ. This leads to a focus on promoting values such as compassion, justice, mercy and tolerance, often through political activism." Okay, sounds good so far.

The "NEW AGE" movement started in the 1970's in Western society, drawing on earlier influences of the occult, spiritualism and Eastern mysticism. New Agers believe in the coming of an improved human consciousness and international peace through personal growth. They look to the god or goddess within themselves to find one's own path to perfection as a path to continual growth and transformation. While they differ in many ways from modern Pagans, there are also many similarities; for example, they are often connected to social change movements. There are also hybrid beliefs like the Pagan practice of Wicca.

We will present several audio clips from Alisa Childers. She is a Christian singer and public speaker warning against what she believes to be signs to watch out for on Progressive Christianity. She defines Progressive Christianity as: "A shift in the authority for the Christian faith from the Bible to personal conscience, subjective spiritual experience, or feelings." She will discuss similarities between Progressive Christianity and the New Age movement.



First similarity - there is no original sin, *Is Progressive Christianity and New Age the Same Thing?* Alisa Childers

- So, here are five ways Progressive Christianity and New Age spirituality are kind of the same thing. 1. There's a redefinition or just an abandonment of the concept of sin. New Agers believe that all people are inherently divine; that we all have this spark of divinity inside of us, and that there is no such thing called "sin," but only the failure to remember or acknowledge our divinity. Not only have we never sinned, but we have no need of salvation. And all of this information supposedly came from Jesus himself. Well, several years ago, I heard a progressive pastor teach on Genesis 3, the famous passage in which Eve was tricked by the serpent into eating the forbidden fruit. Even though he didn't believe this was an actual historical fact, he was unpacking the moral truth that we can all learn from the creation story. He made the point that when this first couple took that fateful bite in the Garden that it was actually their shame - not their sin - that separated them from God. So, in other words, they failed to recognize their belovedness, their inherent goodness and worth. So, according to this view, if they were separated from God, it was THEM who were distant, not God. Without original sin, we are all good and we're only distant from God in our own minds when we forget that.



It is important to note that Progressive Christians generally do NOT believe the Bible is the inspired, authoritative word of God. The difficult parts that show God as vindictive or condoning killing, for example, they say are attributed to fallible humans writing what they perceived.

For a Christian to say we have never sinned and have no need of salvation is hard to swallow. Many seem to be on this wave that is moving toward the belief that everything is okay. Paganism embraces that.

For a Christian Pastor to even hint at sin being a non-factor for humanity and replacing it with moral shame shows a dramatic lack of scriptural integrity. He does not quote the full scriptural account, as we will review shortly.

God gives Adam direct instruction and a direct consequence for disobeying:

Genesis 2:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. ¹⁶The LORD God commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.

God initially said to Adam: *Here are the rules. If you do not obey the rules, there is a dire consequence.* This is already different from believing humans have never sinned.

When talking to Eve, Satan contradicts God's consequence and covers it with a half-truth:

Genesis 3:4-5: (NASB) ⁴The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

It is true they understood good and evil after their disobedience. But the "death" part was also true! But Satan said: *Do not worry about that part!* Satan essentially left out half of what God said.





After following Satan's lead, Adam and Eve know they did wrong and attempted to hide from God:

Genesis 3:9-11: (NASB) ⁹Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, Where are you? ¹⁰He said, I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself. ¹¹And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

Restating: *He made the point that when this first couple took that fateful bite in the Garden that it was actually their shame - not their sin - that separated them from God.*

Let's look closer to see what exactly caused the separation from God.

I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself. God asked, Who told you that you were naked? Here we see the shame of Adam.

Then God immediately asks, *Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?* God directly questions Adam's disobedience/sin and consequences followed.

Satan quoted HALF of what God said. Unfortunately, this pastor did exactly the same thing! Having scriptural integrity means we do not parse out what might seem to be inconvenient parts of a scripture.

God proclaims the consequences of Adam's sin - He describes what dying thou shalt die looks like:

Genesis 3:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷Then to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat from it; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

God describes the process of dying, and says it will involve toil and hardship - this is what happened as a consequence of disobedience! The idea that there is no sin has no basis in Scripture.

God enforces the consequences for Adam's wrongdoing:

Genesis 3:22-23: (NASB) ²²Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever— ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

Because Adam disobeyed and ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he was no longer permitted to stay in the Garden. There was a consequence for sin.

PAGANISM

Paganism claims universal divinity and sinlessness.



**COMPARISON
OBSERVATION:**

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity stands squarely upon biblical teaching that labels sin as the primary wrong to be righted.



There are some features of Progressive Christianity we stand behind, such as studying the Bible topically and contextually, and studying the original Greek and Hebrew to better understand the meaning. But some parts of Progressive Christianity seem to be regressive - back to the paganism of ancient Greece and Rome.

Let's continue with Alisa Childers about absolute truth.



Second similarity - absolute truth, *Is Progressive Christianity and New Age the Same Thing? Alisa Childers*

- The second thing that progressive Christianity and New Age spirituality have in common is a denial of absolute truth. So, New Age thought is marked by its relativism. There's a rejection of objective morality and objective truth. So, if something feels true to you, it's true. If it feels right to you, it's right. If something feels real to you, it's reality. In other words, your own thoughts and feelings are your authority for what is true and real. Well, one distinctive feature of progressive Christianity is its denial of biblical authority. Of course, no one operates without an authority. If you remove one authority, you're going to replace it with another. So, typically in Progressive Christianity, the authority for what someone believes is true shifts from the Bible to themselves by becoming their own moral compass, which will inevitably ebb and flow with culture.*

Similarly, Paganism puts humanity on par with the sacredness of life with everything entwined. According to Paganism, there is divinity running through all in the universe. We see the fundamental difference. The Bible describes it differently. Let's challenge the concept of "no absolute truth" using the words of Jesus.



Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well about absolute truth:

John 4:22-23: (NASB) ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

The Samaritans were called "the people of the land." They were of a mixed nationality placed as colonists in that portion of the country of Palestine previously occupied by the 10 Tribes of Israel. They worshiped God in nature. They were not welcome at the Temple, and the Jews looked down on them.

They had Paganism mixed in with their Jewishness. It put them on the outside because they were revering the wrong things. Jesus was talking about *the true worshipers* - those who worshipped the absolute truth.

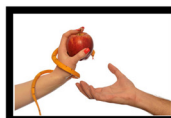
Jesus taught those who believed in him about the importance of absolute truth:

John 8:31-32: (NASB) ³¹...If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

Did he say: *You will know MY truth and MY truth will make you free?* No! It is **THE** truth - absolute truth, not "Jesus' truth." All of Jesus' words came from God.



We need to be careful when someone tells us it is OUR personal truth that counts. Consider listening to these past episodes:



**Episode 1103:
Have We Become Too
Desensitized to Sin?**

Examining current moral standards in the light of biblical teaching



**Episode 992:
Are We SURE Sin
is Really Sinful?**

Learning to handle "situation ethics" in light of biblical principles

Jesus speaks to the Pharisees about absolute truth:

John 8:44-45: (NASB) ⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I speak the truth, you do not believe me.

The Scriptures revere the truth of God as absolute. There is no variation.

Absolute truth is related to sin and the role Jesus plays in a Christian's life regarding our sin.

The Apostle John walked side-by-side with Jesus and TOLD us that we sin. Was he mistaken?

1 John 2:1-2: (NASB) ¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he himself is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

The sacrifice of Jesus was the exact payment for our sins. To say sin does not exist is false and not scriptural. The Apostle John himself confirms this for us.

PAGANISM

Paganism gives everyone the "right" to determine and act upon their own truth.



CHRISTIANITY

Christianity solemnly proclaims that we must pursue the **absolute truth** of God to find eternal meaning.

**COMPARISON
OBSERVATION:**

The difference here is palpable. We cannot look at the two and say, sure they mix. Let's be honest and have integrity as we look at the Scriptures to see what they tell us and understand what our beliefs are truly based upon.



Pagan principles proclaim humanity to be sinless, divine and capable of determining their own personal truth that demands respect from others. Christian principles are based upon the exact opposite - we are born sinners and need the truth of God through Jesus to set us free.

We cannot deny these major differences.

As we review the painfully obvious differences between Pagans and Christians, let's not forget that Jesus died for all!



With such obvious differences between Paganism and Christianity, do Pagans respect the value of Jesus' sacrifice?

As we will now see, the very basis of Pagan belief disregards any need for a savior. As we move further into our Pagan/Christian comparisons, we need to be clearly focused, not only on what the fundamental differences in beliefs are, but also on the effects those differences have on our daily lives.

The entire Bible is centered on the sacrifice of Jesus as the pivotal event that changed the course of humanity. This is now being reframed as something very different.

Third similarity - denial of blood atonement, *Is Progressive Christianity and New Age the Same Thing? Alisa Childers*

- *The third thing that Progressive Christianity and New Age beliefs have in common is this acceptance of Jesus, but a denial of his blood atonement. So, New Age thought leaders almost always couch their teachings in Christian language. Jesus is an example of someone who attained enlightenment by connecting with the divine. He's an example that any of us can follow. His death wasn't a saving act, but the saving comes from within ourselves when we realize that we have the same capabilities as Jesus already within us. So, this is often referred to as "Christ consciousness." This is why many New Agers see no contradiction in reciting the Lord's Prayer while believing in karma and the healing power of crystals. Of course, this is an outright denial of his atoning death and resurrection. Many Progressive Christians also deny the blood atonement of Jesus. Many Progressive Christian leaders have popularized the phrase "cosmic child abuse," a term first coined by Steve Chalke to protest the idea that a loving God would require the blood sacrifice for the sin of mankind.*

The shocking phrase "cosmic child abuse" is how the death of Jesus on the cross was unnecessary, punishing Jesus for an offense he did not commit, instead of its purpose of just forgiving us outright. They say God repaid evil with evil, which ironically is the opposite of Jesus' own teachings.

This reminds us of what we were told by the Apostle Paul:

1 Corinthians 1:18: (AMP) *For the message of the cross is foolishness [absurd and illogical] to those who are perishing and spiritually dead [because they reject it], but to us who are being saved [by God's grace] it is [the manifestation of] the power of God.*

We are so thankful we understand God's plan will reach out to save every man, woman and child - Pagan included! On the point of denying the blood atonement, God was clearly not punishing Jesus - Jesus voluntarily paid a price. We laud the heroism of someone sacrificing their life for another. Jesus did this not just for Adam, but for all of his descendants.

Please see the Bonus Material for more about the ransom of Jesus.

Jesus flatly renounced these ideas of not needing a savior:

John 3:16-17: (NASB) *¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send the son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.*



Did Jesus not really mean the world would be saved through him? We do not understand Pagans making his own words of no value.

The Apostle Peter not only affirms our need of Jesus but shows God's forethought and planning:

1 Peter 1:18-20: (NASB) ¹⁸Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. ²⁰For he was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.

This talks about blood atonement, redemption and the plan of God which will put everything right for eternity. The centerpiece is Jesus and his sacrifice.

For a scriptural step-by-step on this important topic, please listen to:



Uncovering the far-reaching effects of Jesus' sacrifice



Check out our CQ Kids videos:
WHY DID JESUS COME TO EARTH?
christianquestions.com/youtube

If we say the blood atonement of Jesus does not mean anything, then the Apostle Peter, who also walked alongside Jesus and wrote the scripture we just read, probably did not know what he was talking about either.

The Apostle John builds upon the presence of light and truth surrounding the sacrifice of Jesus:

1 John 1:5-7: (NASB) ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His son cleanses us from all sin.

All of the ingredients are here: sacrifice, sin and truth. We need to stand for what Christianity should stand for according to Scripture. We have no commonality in belief with those who see the divine actually within all things, and who believe in "Mother Earth" instead of God the Father who created the earth and all the things on the earth.

PAGANISM

Because Paganism makes us divine, we therefore redeem ourselves, and that is if we even need redemption in the first place.



CHRISTIANITY

Christianity sees this as not only impossible, but as an act of darkness needing the **redemption of Jesus.**



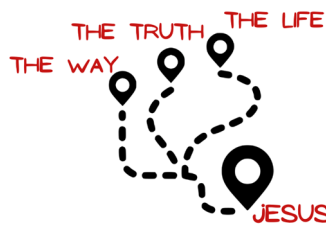
Fourth similarity - *It's All About Me, Is Progressive Christianity and New Age the Same Thing?* Alisa Childers

- The fourth thing that Progressive Christians and New Agers have in common is this idea that it's all about me. So, New Age thought revolves around the self with a capital 'S.' Self-empowerment and realization of our innate divinity are central to its teachings and practices. According to New Age blogger Kaylee Brown, when Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life," in John 14:6, this "me" that Jesus referred to isn't himself, but rather, "the self within you." A course in miracles also asks the participants to affirm this: "My salvation comes from me." And you know, if we're all divine, why shouldn't it be all about us? Well, the typical Progressive Christian will probably not agree that it's all about them. In fact, they tend to be very focused on social justice, but that's not what I'm talking about here. I'm talking about a theological shift. So, generally speaking, the concept of sin is abandoned or redefined, truth becomes relativized and a mere martyr's cross gives us a more palatable Jesus, who's a great moral teacher, moral example and doting best friend forever.

In other words, if we cannot get everyone to accept Jesus, let's rebrand him so that he can be more attractive to the masses!

Let's look closer at this:

John 14:1-6: (NASB) ¹Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going, how do we know the way? ⁶Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.



Jesus assured his disciples that he was preparing a place for them in heaven. The only way to get there was through Jesus himself. It is unquestioningly about him and not "the self within us." It is frustrating to see such a dissection and reinterpretation of Scripture to suit our own preferences.

Jesus did not invite us to be his "doting best friend forever." This takes the sacredness out of Jesus' sacrifice for sin and makes it unrecognizable:

Luke 9:23: (NASB) And he was saying to them all, If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me.

This is our leader! There is work to be done, and we are told if we follow him, it will be difficult. Jesus tells us we will be persecuted like him. We will suffer for his sake. There is even the possibility of being put to death for his cause. Denying self is for a greater purpose.

We have now seen a dramatic difference between Paganism and true Christianity.

Where does Paganism come from?





The Pagan belief system has its profoundly obvious roots in Satan himself. This prophecy describes the thought process of Satan before his fall:

Isaiah 14:12-15: (NASB) ¹²...You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! ¹³But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. ¹⁵Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.

Here we dramatically see the deadly spread of sinful thought. Notice the similar pattern between Paganism and Satan:

- *You said in your heart* - entertaining ungodly thoughts begins in our hearts.

PAGANSIM

Paganism begins in our heart when we say we are part of a divine connection; that we ourselves are gods.

- *I will ascend to heaven* - Satan initially was God's earthly representative. Lucifer (as pictured by the king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28:12-19) was assigned to be the "covering cherub," protecting the Garden of Eden.

PAGANSIM

Paganism is about rising above the position where humanity was created. We are created in God's image to honor and serve God. Venerating nature, ourselves and others is idolatry.

- *I will raise (exalt) my throne above the stars of God* - the first part of Isaiah 14:12-14 begins with, *How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn!* Lucifer was already a "morning star" of God.

PAGANSIM

Paganism claims we do not need the rules of God. We ourselves are good enough.

- *I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north* - where God abides.

PAGANSIM

Many branches of Paganism focus on divinity in everything, but divinity belongs to God and the resurrected Jesus.

- *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds* - above the influence of God's presence with man.

PAGANSIM

Paganism has no need for the true God. They have "Mother Earth," and for those polytheists, a whole pantheon of ancient gods.

- *I will make myself like the Most High* - not replacing, but rivaling the Most High.

PAGANSIM

This is the end result and a dramatic diversion from holiness.



Lucifer was looking for dominion, power and authority beyond his position. He sought to usurp the position of his Creator for whom he should have been honored to represent.

Paganism and belief systems like the New Age movement give people a sense of power but without having to conform to something. You just “follow self.” Doesn’t this sound exactly like Lucifer? This is how we see that Paganism has its roots in the thoughts and ambitions of Satan.

We are clearly instructed to separate our discipleship from our personal desires and pride.

The Apostle John was an eyewitness to Jesus. What did he warn us against?

1 John 2:15-16: (NASB) ¹⁵*Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ¹⁶*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

PAGANISM

Paganism places us at the epicenter of our own universe. We guide it from this position of authority.



CHRISTIANITY

Christianity places us behind Jesus so we can **walk in HIS footsteps** no matter the consequences we may face.

**COMPARISON
OBSERVATION:**

CHRISTIANITY AND PAGANISM:

The Pagan principles of being our own savior and being our own ruler remove us from God’s favor. He cannot provide for someone who will not acknowledge their own fundamental needs for reconciliation.

The key is to recognize that we need Jesus. Paganism absolutely does not, which makes it impossible for Paganism and Christianity to work together.

To consciously remove ourselves from God’s favor so that we can self-direct is a bad idea!

What are the differences in the end result?

Where does Paganism bring us? Where does Christianity bring us?

Once again, we will see stark differences when comparing Paganism and Christianity. First, we need to realize that the plan of God is linear. He consciously brings us ever forward towards a destination in the future. Paganism has no such plan, as it is ambiguously cyclical as things, people and all of the universe return to the same point again and again.

UNIVERSALISM

Universalism is the belief that all mankind will eventually be saved. But “saved” to what? The belief says everyone, regardless of their relationship with God and His son Jesus, will be resurrected in heaven. This certainly tears walls down between religions because the destination is all the same in the end.



If you have been a listener of Christian Questions, you know we are NOT Universalists, but we do believe in a universal opportunity for life. There is a dramatic difference we will discuss further.



Fifth similarity - All Religions Bring Universalism, Is Progressive Christianity and New Age the Same Thing? Alisa Childers

- *The fifth belief that New Age belief and Progressive Christianity has in common is universalism. So, former New Ager and now Christian believer Steven Bancarz noted that New Age proponents affirmed the idea that all roads lead to God. He wrote, "The New Age movement holds tightly to religious pluralism and universalism," which is a view that all religions are inspired by a common source, and they all point to the same truth that we will one day reach, regardless of what path we choose to get there. So, many Progressive Christian authors affirm some sort of universalism, either implicitly, by denying the concept of a literal hell, or explicitly, by declaring that all people will be reconciled to God regardless of their beliefs or religious practices. The concept of universal reconciliation - that Jesus will reconcile all sinners to himself - was smuggled into the mainstream consciousness of the Evangelical church through the wildly popular 2007 book, The Shack. So, none of this is new throughout church history; these ideas have emerged again and again. They are old Pagan dogmas that are just recycled as new and edgy ideas dressed up in modern garb and given a Christian makeover.*

She brings up a lot of good points, but there are a few needing clarification. She talks about the denial of hellfire as being a universalistic perspective. Hellfire as a place of torment is not taught in the Bible. It is based on traditions and ancient myths rather than being a scriptural concept.



She said, "...universal reconciliation... was smuggled into mainstream consciousness." Universal reconciliation was in God's plan from the beginning, not just since 2007! But it does not mean the automatic gift of heaven. Resurrected humankind will be given a universal opportunity - not a guarantee - of reconciliation with God, back on earth.

For more on resurrection and reconciliation:



Uncovering the destiny of humanity's billions who don't go to heaven

The Apostle Paul's jailer spoke to him after an earthquake freed the prisoners:

Acts 16:30-32: (NASB) ³⁰And after he brought them out, he said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹They said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.



Clarifying salvation's true biblical meaning and applications

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - other scriptures show us how there is more to salvation than simply believing in Jesus. But the point is that only through being a faithful disciple of Jesus do we have the opportunity to be with him in heaven. To say any and all religious paths will bring you there is just not scriptural. If we claim to be Christians but believe all paths lead to the same place, we are not following the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus taught what the resurrection will bring for unbelievers:

John 5:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. ³⁰I can do nothing on my own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of Him who sent me.

Those who did the good deeds - the faithful followers of Jesus

Those who committed the evil deeds - the “everybody else” are promised a resurrection here on earth - their own personal miracle. Then comes the hard work of reconciliation.

God’s plan is a linear path from past sin to future life. This fundamentally differs from Paganism’s concept of a cyclical renewal based on the seasons and earth’s rotation.

The Apostle Paul sums up these marked differences between Christianity and Paganism:

Romans 1:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel...¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, But the righteous man shall live by faith.

Paul is writing to the Roman Christians who were living in a Pagan society. They were surrounded by Pagan worship every day. Paul was not ashamed of how different the gospel was. He shares these dramatic differences so they would know what to walk away from.

	PAGANISM		CHRISTIANITY
A major and fundamental difference:	Paganism worships the tangible, visible nature around them as being divine.	 COMPARISON OBSERVATION:	Christians live by faith which means that we believe in something greater and more powerful above us.

Paul continues:

Romans 1:18,20: (NASB) ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.



In this context Paul is talking about the Pagan culture *suppressing the truth in unrighteousness*.

The Pagan explanation is that our view of God grew out of some spirit. In reality, their gods and their deifying of nature grew out of the obvious power and order of God's intentional creation.

"Mother Earth" is a personification and does not have any power or influence. God is an intelligent Creator in contrast to the earth, which does not have a mind.

Romans 1:21-23: (NASB) ²¹*For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*

To the Pagan, God Almighty is not relevant; rather, He is replaced by that which He Himself created and that which He created takes on the reverence and power that belong to God!

Part of the attraction of modern Paganism is that it is ancient and mysterious, with hidden secrets to be discovered. It promises an almost forbidden sense of community that is special, different from the mainstream. There is a buffet of beliefs, rituals, ceremonies and gods for whatever appeals to you with no one to answer to. How seductive it is to have choice without repercussions! This is what Satan looked for and is what Paganism preaches.

What is the result of this deviation from truth?

Romans 1:24-25: (NASB) ²⁴*Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

Worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator - here is the core of the problem. Without the acknowledgment of a higher source for our being and our guidance, we are left with a grossly inflated perspective of ourselves as divine, and therefore right. Take a look around. Is this world **thriving** or **diving** with such a Satan-mimicking view of ourselves?

<p>PAGANISM</p> <p>Simply stated, Paganism claims the sanctity and reverence that should rightfully be given to God as belonging to that which is common.</p>	 <p>COMPARISON OBSERVATION:</p>	<p>CHRISTIANITY</p> <p>Christianity's whole objective is to focus our reverence on <u>OUR CREATOR AND HIS SON.</u></p>
--	--	---

Here is a preview of what is coming in Part II, when we will look at the Wicca and witchcraft side of Paganism.



Prayer and Paganism, *The Many Faces of the Occult*, theatlantic.com

- (Woman 1) *People don't realize that prayer technically is a form of magic because they're asking for a change in the forces unseen. I now work with crystals. It's another kind of link to talking to the supernatural. If I'm working with a pendulum, I'm not talking to the crystal itself. I'm talking to the entity that it is linked to.*
- (Woman 2) *The spell has to be very specific. First of all, you have to form the intent. That's the most important thing. Write your spell, go to your altar, thank the god and the goddess for listening, and let it go in faith that it will happen.*

James talks about issues and inappropriate desires that are not God-driven and approached with proper prayer:

James 4:1-3: (NASB) ¹What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ²You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

In Wicca, practitioners attempt to manifest what they want through positive thinking and intent. Christianity teaches the opposite. We do not cast spells for what we want.

The Apostle Paul reminding the formerly Pagan Corinthians about what they now stand for:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5: (NASB) ³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh (carnal), but they are divinely powerful because we are fighting against forces and powers that are stronger than we are.

We talked about Paganism having its roots in Satan. Those who think they are connecting with spirits, entities, gods and goddesses who are not THE God Almighty, who are they connecting with? The answer is not some entity that is full of light, but of darkness.

Our walk is one of specific focus. We are to be armed with spiritual weaponry and must fight against the trends that suggest that everyone's belief is good and should be embraced. This is "sanctimonious divinity," where we make ourselves important and special when really it should be about God our Father.

PAGANISM

While we can embrace and accept the goodness of people who truly desire that which is right and helpful, we must always draw a line when it comes to belief systems.

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity as taught in the Bible has no common ground with Pagan fundamentals and *the two should never mix.*



COMPARISON
OBSERVATION:



As we take a pause and look back, we see a pathway that sounds inclusive, peaceful and helpful. But it brings us down a road that is all about worshipping that which is created. It leaves the Creator, the Grand Designer, out of everything. It is all about us. Paganism assigns us attributes which do not belong. It makes the human divine - it makes us the centerpiece. God should be our centerpiece through Jesus.

Do not be fooled by what you see. We can love people who are Pagan, but we do not love their path. We will not follow where they go because it is contrary to our Christianity and the holy Scriptures.

**So, can Christianity and Paganism work together?
For Jonathan, Rick, Julie and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.



Bonus Material and Study Questions

A reasoning from the Apostle Paul to a Pagan audience:

What follows is an example of how to properly deal with Paganism and a particular focus on an unnamed god:

Acts 17:22-31: (NASB) ²²So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.



The Apostle was respectful of the people's religious heritage:

²³For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, To an unknown god. Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

Paul was clearly focused on understanding the people by studying what they worshiped:

²⁴The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

Paul gently informs them that God is above ALL else and has given us life:

²⁶and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;



Paul affirms the central position of God - God creates one man and then the race is born:

²⁸for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, For we also are His children. ²⁹Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

Again, God is far above all that has been created by Him:

³⁰Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead.

Right and wrong exist and God's righteousness will rule as a result of Jesus' faithfulness.

More context from the events that brought sin to the human race:

Genesis 1:26-30: (NASB) *²⁶Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. ²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth. ²⁹Then God said, Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; ³⁰and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food; and it was so.*

Genesis 2:15-17: (NASB) *¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. ¹⁶The LORD God commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.*

Genesis 3:1-5: (NASB) *¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Indeed, has God said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden? ²The woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die. ⁴The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*

Genesis 3:8-11: (NASB) *⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, Where are you? ¹⁰He said, I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself. ¹¹And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?*

Genesis 3:17-19: (NASB) *¹⁷Then to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat from it; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Genesis 3:22-23: (NASB) *²²Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever— ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.*



The concept of the RANSOM is important because it is the entire basis for our Christian faith and the plan of God for the world of mankind.

What does it mean to say “Jesus is the ransom?” 1 Timothy 2:5-6: (NASB) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a **ransom** **<487>** for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Ransom: Strong's #487, antilutron, a redemption price

Strong's #487 is only used in this one place in the Bible. It is derived from two Greek words:

anti: Strong's #473, instead of or because of; used to denote substitution or correspondence

Lutron: Strong's 3083, a redemption price, ransom

The word *ransom* in this one text means a “corresponding price.”

Adam, a perfect man, chose to disobey God resulting in sin and death for him and all his offspring. The entire human race was doomed to the prison of death in order to satisfy justice - Adam paid the penalty of his disobedience to God. (Romans 6:23: (KJV) *The wages of sin is death...*) All of our race are either dead or dying.

Without the intervening sacrifice of Jesus, the cycle of sin and death would continue in misery until eventually the human race died out.

The death of the perfect man Jesus became the *substitute* or *corresponding price* for Adam. Jesus willingly volunteered to die and thereby paid the ransom by his perfect obedience to God. The man Jesus would take Adam's place in death, thereby satisfying justice.

Having paid the ransom price allows the work of the ransom to begin.

1 Corinthians 15:22: (KJV) *In Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

This legal equivalency of “a perfect life (Adam) for a perfect life (Jesus)” allows for the resurrection of mankind and their opportunity for everlasting life in the kingdom. Mankind will finally have the full opportunity to be obedient without inherited sin. As a reward for his sacrifice, Jesus was resurrected as a highly exalted spirit being to complete the great work of bringing mankind back into a relationship with God.

The ransom does not excuse the sins committed by those in this lifetime - it does not suddenly count sinners as saints and usher them into everlasting bliss. It merely releases the accepting sinner from the first condemnation and its results, and places him again on trial for life, in which his own willful obedience or willful disobedience will decide if he may or may not have life everlasting.

John 1:29: (KJV) *...The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world...*

Romans 5:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1235: Can Christianity and Paganism Work Together? Part I

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1235-paganism/>

See:



1. What is the basis of all Pagan religions? How does the biblical account explain earth's creation? How do Paganism and the Bible differ in their views of the purpose of the cycle of life? (See Genesis 1:1-3, 11-12, 1:14-15, 1:17-18)
2. How does the Bible describe God's divine will and objective in the creation of man and the abundance of the earth? How do we know that Adam did not have divinity in himself? What is Paganism's thought on divinity and the origin and purpose of life? (See Genesis 1:26-29)
3. What is the clear biblical explanation as to why mankind is separated from God? What were the consequences for Adam and Eve's sin of disobedience? How does Progressive Christianity explain mankind's distance from God? How does this view directly contradict God's word on the subject? (See Genesis 2:15-17, 3:4-5, 17-19, 22-23)
4. From where should Christians get their authority to determine what is true and right? What were some of Jesus' words on the subject of absolute truth? What do Paganism and Progressive Christianity use as an authority in discovering truth? How do these two views fundamentally clash with the Bible? (See John 4:22-23, 8:31-32, 44-45)
5. What is the central event described in the Bible that changed the course of humanity? What does the sacrifice of Jesus do for the human race? How does Pagan belief negate this event? (See John 3:16-17, 1 Peter 1:18-20, 1 John 1:5-7)
6. What is incorrect about looking at Jesus as merely a good man and a good friend? (See John 14:1-6, Luke 9:23)
7. Trace the similarities between the thought processes of Lucifer before he fell and the roots of Paganism. How do the New Age belief systems mirror the ambitions of Satan? How does this differ from the instructions John gives us as we become disciples of Jesus? (See Isaiah 14:12-15, 1 John 2:15-16)
8. What is the fundamental difference between the beliefs of true Christianity and Paganism?
9. Where does God's plan of redemption from Adam's sin lead us? What is the Pagan concept of renewal? How did Paul explain the differences between following Jesus and the ideas of Paganism prevalent in Rome at the time? How does Pagan belief twist the relationship between the Creator and that which He created? (See Romans 1:16-25)
10. What should be the centerpiece of our lives as true Christians? How can we make sure to keep this as the center?