

Should Christians Drink Wine? What Other Rules Should We Enforce?

One person thought this is about wine! For you, I hope, it's about understanding "God is watching"...

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Bible Synopsis!

Hey Mae Dean,

Monday, June 9, 2025

Nice talking with you this morning. My best to all! Your discussion with Joan about drinking wine, and which you shared, has been on my mind: Joan saying Jesus turned water into wine so it must be alright for her to drink it, and you saying Jesus performed that event to prove he was God's son with power of God's Spirit to perform such miracles. ([Mat 9:2-8](#)) What both of you say does seem scriptural... Please let me explain why I don't take a side on your issue, and certainly believe worrying about which of you is right is not important, at least not short term! Most happily for me, you seem both to be justifying yourselves using your own Bible knowledge of Jesus. Based on that, my blessings on you both. The important thing to me, you see, is that each of you is making public expression of your own faith! As to you judging the actions of each other, or condemning the choices made by the other, I remind you what Jesus taught as reflected in the words of Paul in his letter to the Christians in Rome.

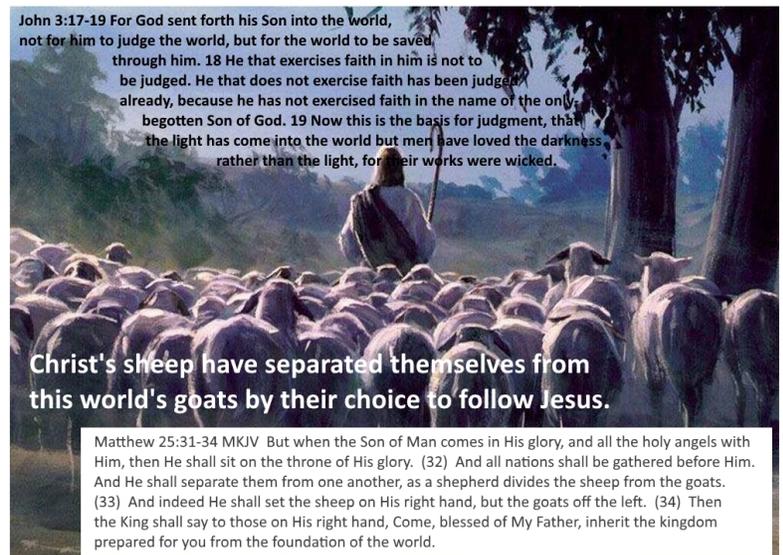
[Romans 14:1-4 GNB](#) Welcome those who are weak in faith [using Jesus as our exemplar, I'm guessing he views us all as weak in faith ([Mat 8:24-27](#))], but **do not argue with them about their personal opinions.** (2) Some people's faith allows them to eat anything, but the person who is weak in the faith eats only vegetables. (3) The person who will eat anything is not to despise the one who doesn't; while the one who eats only vegetables is not to pass judgment on the one who will eat anything; **for God has accepted that person.** (4) Who are you to judge the servants of someone else? It is their own Master who will decide whether they succeed or fail. And they will succeed, because the Lord is able to make them succeed.

Never imagining to judge who is weak or strong, the scripture makes me feel like such debates as this [about whether to drink wine; which is actually a fairly common issue] might be more religious in nature than Christian; a matter of personal opinion. What identifies "Religionists" is they spend much of their time arguing about what is acceptable for others over matters that are not defined right or wrong by the Bible. I say very specifically "it feels like to me" because I have no illusions I am your judge. As Paul there said we all stand or fall to our own master, and none of us are that. Jesus very specifically warned against subjugating ourselves to other men, or, trying to be lords over them! ^(viii) We must separate ourselves from all such judgmental [Religionists](#). [See [John 8:31-32](#) on next to last page.]

As to my feeling your debate might be religious, please let me make clear what "I believe" the Bible teaches to be the great distinction between being Christian and being religious. It seems we can easily get the two mixed up. For me, it is a constant battle to avoid becoming [even more] [judgmental](#). "Religion" is easy to see as bad, on those we personally judge as spiritually lost. On ourselves or our own group, however, not so much. I heard a [Muslim](#) woman interviewed in Gaze say she just lost her son to their religious war and she was ready to sacrifice her Grandson. She is probably adored as righteous and held in high esteem by her fellow Muslims. All of us who are Jewish or Christian believe we are descendants of Abraham [or adopted as such - see [graphic](#) on last page]; and that through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob [renamed Israel by God ([Gen 32:27-28](#))]. Finally, those of us who are Christians also believe the Scriptures that our salvation must come through our faith in Abraham's descendant Jesus:

[Matthew 1:1 GNB](#) This is the list of the ancestors of **Jesus Christ**, a descendant of David, **who was a descendant of Abraham.**

[Galatians 3:26-29 GNB](#) It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus. (27) You were [baptized](#) into union with Christ [by putting faith in him ([1 Pet 3:21-22](#))], and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. (28) So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. (29) **If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.**



Jesus's sheep aren't looking around to follow other sheep, they follow, well, Christ!

Interesting about Muslims, they also believe they are blessed by being descendants of Abraham, but through his son Ishmael rather than Isaac. [See [chart](#) on last page showing where religions and their hate come from.] Of course, thinking we are pleasing to God by being born through anyone except Abraham, then through Isaac, then Israel [Jacob] and finally through our personal faith in Christ, is contrary to the Bible. So, I would consider Muslims to be religious rather than Christian. But, as the Muslim woman quoted above attests, it seems to have little or nothing to do with sincerity. So, then, if not our sincerity, what decides who we are; what determines if we are pleasing to God? Well, it's very simple really: The **individuals actually following Jesus Christ are pleasing God; everyone else isn't.**

We are witness to a world of people who assert Christianity but their actions belie their claim... I can remember as a boy being distressed at seeing Catholics and Protestants bombing and killing each other in Ireland, each sect [murdering](#) in the name of Christ. They left me wondering if either are really Christians. Most of the other religions are killing or supporting the killing of those of different faiths as well, somewhere. If they are not physically killing each other, they are judging nonmembers unworthy of life and damned by God. We all know if I tried to teach a bunch of Muslims about Jesus Christ, many among them would try to kill me for assaulting their god Allah. Just please think: How different is that from [Catholics](#) and [Protestants](#) who hate or even want to harm me because I won't join their sect? "Christians" simply do not hate and do their best not to harm other people! Even Muslims agree the Muslim faith is not Christianity. The danger of being religious rather than Christian is not so easy for many to consider, however, about Catholics and Baptists and Mormons and Amish and Jehovah's Witnesses and all the other [Protestants](#), each one having a self determined doctrine of faith that defines and judges approval for membership in their named sect? Are they real Christians just because some sincerely believe they are, and/or, use Jesus's name in "their" [doctrine](#) of judgment? Doesn't following their sectarian doctrine sound too similar to Muslims following the Quran [asserted by the man Mohammad to have been given him by the Angel Gabriel]; or Mormons following the Book of Mormon [asserted by the man Joseph Smith to have been given him by Gabriel]; or Jehovah's Witnesses following their "faithful and discreet slave" [asserted by their sect to be stand-ins for Christ and producing new spiritual food (only the Bible is [spiritual food](#) – [1 Cor 10:1-5](#); [John 6:52-59](#); [John 6:63](#); [John 4:31-34](#))]; or Catholics following their Pope [asserted by their sect to be a stand-in for Christ, and his teachings above question]? So, then, reasonable people are left to wonder: If someone grows up a Catholic or Methodist or Mormon or other [Protestant](#), being taught from infancy the teachings of their organization are God's teachings, but never actually having followed God's only later day command [since Jesus was born] to really listen to the words of his Son for themselves;

[Matthew 17:5 GNB](#) While he was talking, a shining cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased---listen to him!"

does their doctrine of "asserted Christianity" make [Catholics](#) and [Protestants](#) pleasing to God; any more than Muslims? Religion is just all the different ways men gather to worship God in the way they think is right. In all I have known, religion is the attempt of its membership to justify themselves before our Creator but mostly to each other, as they exclude those who won't approve [worship] their beliefs. Of course they have to hate everyone who refuses to go along with their self-deception. **Christianity, however, is God's one and only approach to mankind.** Christians are all "the individuals drawn" to Christ by God, because God saw something good in them. ([2 Chron 16:9](#)) They are the ones listening to God's command to [listen](#) to his son. ([Mark 9:7](#)) That, my dear friend, is what faith is about, and, our personal faith is what we are all deciding about ourselves. **God is listening to us do so!** ([Mal 3:16-4:3](#))

So, then, Auntie Mae Dean; the discussion you had with Joan is very important; because it represents each of you defending "your" faith. And, that public declaration is how we each show our Creator who we are in heart.

[Romans 10:9-10 ESV](#) ...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **(10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses [makes public declaration] and is saved.**

God cares about you and Joan, and, **He is listening** to our defense of our faith as we speak together!

[These Bible verses have [God's Hebrew name](#) restored. It is יהוה and sounds like YeaVah to English speakers: That's "Yea" like yea go team followed by "Vah" as in the first two letters of vault...]

[Malachi 3:16-4:3 MWT](#) ...At that time those in fear of יהוה spoke with one another. יהוה kept paying attention and listening, so that a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared him and esteemed his name. (17) "They shall be mine, says יהוה of hosts, in the day when I make up my special property (gather my chosen people), and I will protect them just as a man shows compassion for his own son who serves him. (18) **Then you will see the distinction between the righteous one and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.** [That distinction is illustrated in the [picture](#) above.]

[Malachi 4:1-3 MWT](#) "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be like stubble for the flames. The day that is coming shall set them all ablaze, says יהוה of hosts, so

that I will leave them neither present life nor future hope. (2) But for you who fear my name, the sun [Son] of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. (3) And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act in justice says יהוה of hosts.

So, you must see how very important your discussion with Joan is? It is made important because יהוה is listening... As Paul directed in [Romans 14:1-4](#) [above], Joan should decide if she should drink wine, as should you, and me for that matter. Then, as God listens to our defense of our decisions, to our own master we stand or fall; as it should be. And very importantly, we should all rejoice that each of us is quoting the Bible and asserting faith in Christ in defense of our decisions of faith; as opposed to just going along with the religious doctrine of some church! [See [John 8:31-32](#) on next to last page.] While our job before God “is” sharing with everyone what Jesus said, ([Eze 3:17-21](#)) the actual making of Christians [which defines their decisions about what is right and wrong] is God’s work. יהוה even explains how He is doing that work, and how we can help by simply encouraging all to read the words of Jesus: ([John 6:28-29](#)) 1st... יהוה explains “He” is looking throughout the earth for each individual inclined toward righteousness.

[2 Chronicles 16:9](#) ESV “For the eyes of the יהוה run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him...”

2nd... As He personally finds each righteously inclined person, He directs them [or draws them] to the teachings of his son. [See [Mat 17:5](#) above.] And, according to Christ, no one can actually hear and come to him unless they are first drawn [or dragged as one translation words it] to the words of God’s Son, dragged there by the Father’s Spirit:

[John 6:44](#) ESV No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

[John 6:65](#) ESV And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

3rd... Finally, those drawn judge ourselves by our [response](#) to Christ’s Words. ([John 3:19-20](#) of [16-21](#)) So, the only real question for each one of us is whether we, us personally as an individual, are actually listening to the words of Christ, every day I think... If we believe we have already heard what Jesus said by our previous reading of the Bible, or that we are safe because we have a membership in some church that asserts to grant God’s approval (like a zealous Muslim), we should reevaluate. We must take in [feed on] God’s Spirit by reading the words of Christ; often.ⁱⁱ We will probably never understand the interwoven full meaning of all Jesus said. Still, we ~~should~~ must try. It means life!

Sadly or gloriously, depending on ~~your point of view~~ your faith, the [tribulation](#) [the destruction of the earth we have caused by our disobedience to God, resulting in these effects of our horrid abuse of the earth and our fellowman] and/or [Armageddon](#) [God’s war using Christ and the Angels to end the tribulation; by destroying all the wicked while preserving alive the righteous, ([Mark 13:19-20](#))] is rapidly escalating to destroy our old wicked world system! [In just the last 6 years we have suffered Covid, the unchecked invasion of the great and free nation of Ukraine with others threatened, the Bible prophesied destruction of Gaza ([Zep 2:4](#) of [1-7](#)) and the humanly unsolvable [Bible war](#) between then future [Muslims](#) (last page) and Jews (supported by many asserted Christians), along with increased “natural” disasters and...] But, God has provided our modern day ark of salvation: Our own individual protection is through our faith in the words of His Christ [Anointed One]. And so, God’s war of Armageddon is actually a “good thing” for the friends of Christ.ⁱⁱⁱ ([Mark 13:19-20](#)) **It’s a simple question of life for YOU: If Armageddon ends with a sudden nuclear war, ([Mal 4:1](#)) or with fire and brimstone from heaven, ([Luke 17:29-30](#); [Jude 7](#)) will your unwavering faith in the words of Christ and/or God’s angels protect you alive? ([Mark 11:22-24](#); [Heb 10:37-39](#)) Here, then, is Christ’s description of and/or prediction for our day in time... Are you [part](#) of New Jerusalem?**

[Luke 21:25-28](#) GNB "There will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars. [Would exploding space ships raining down flaming toxins, or a night sky full of ballistic missiles qualify?] **On earth whole countries will be in despair**, afraid of the roar of the sea and the raging tides [human upheaval among the sea of mankind^{iv}]. (26) **People will faint from fear as they wait for what is coming over the whole earth**, for the powers in space will be driven from their courses. (27) Then the Son of Man will appear [to those who have faith to see], coming in a cloud with great power and glory. (28) **When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation [or deliverance] is near."**

[Mark 13:19-20](#) ESV For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. (20) **And if יהוה had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect [the followers of Christ], whom he chose, he shortened the days.**

Revelation 21:1-4 GNB Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea vanished. (2) And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. (3) I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: **"Now God's home is with people! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God.** (4) He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared." (**Luke 1:30-33**)

So Mae Dean and Joan, let us ~~all~~ each pray and then "express faith" [*expect*] to have what the following scriptures promise; that we are starting to grow "young" in body... Remember, יהוה is listening even more to our prayers! Consider me in your nightly prayers Mae Dean, along with this prophecy from the Book of Job about our growing young with the other followers of Christ... Let's each pray for fulfillment of those Bible promises that all the wicked are being destroyed (**Psa 37:10-11; Psa 37:29**) while our health and vigor grows better than in the days of our youth. You and I need it Mae Dean. Everyone alive is not far behind in that same need. Let's be there when Junior wakes:

Job 33:21-30 GNB Their bodies waste away to nothing; you can see all their bones; (22) they are about to go to the world of the dead. (23) Perhaps an angel may come to their aid--- one of God's thousands of angels, who remind us of our duty. (**John 6:28-29**) (24) In mercy the angel will say, "Release them! They are not to go down to the world of the dead. Here is the ransom to set them free." (25) **Their bodies will grow young and strong again; [let his flesh become fresher than in youth;]** (26) when they pray, God will answer; they will worship God with joy; God will set things right for them again. (27) Each one will say in public, "I have sinned. I have not done right, but God spared me. (28) **He kept me from going to the world of the dead, and I am still alive.**" (29) God does all this again and again; (30) each one saves a person's life [*by sharing their knowledge of Christ*], and gives him the joy of living. (**John 6:38-40; John 11:41-44; John 5:28-29**)

Those marked by God through our expression of faith in the words we have bothered to learn, and can thus know for certain Jesus actually spoke, are receiving God's spirit from those words of His Christ. Even as Jesus said:

John 6:63 ISV It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is useless [*can not preserve alive*]. **The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

Christians are being preserved alive by God's Spirit obtained through knowledge of Christ's words; by faith in his promises of life. (**John 8:51; John 11:24-26**) It is your own personal faith, then, that defines your future.

Matthew 8:13 ISV Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go. It will be done for you just as you have believed." And his servant was healed that very hour.

Matthew 21:21-22 CEV But Jesus said to them, "If you have faith and don't doubt, I promise that you can do what I did to this tree. **And you will be able to do even more.** You can tell this mountain to get up and jump into the sea, and it will. (22) **If you have faith when you pray, you will be given whatever you ask for.**"

We just all need, then, to work out our own salvation, which includes verbally expressing of our own personal faith in the words of Christ

(Philippians 2:12-16) . . .keep working out YOUR own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for God is the one that, for the sake of [his] good pleasure, is acting within YOU in order for YOU both to will and to act [*by means of the Spirit we take in by reading Christ's words*]. ¹⁴ Keep doing all things free from murmurings and arguments, ¹⁵ that YOU may come to be blameless and innocent, children of God without a blemish in among a crooked and twisted generation, among whom YOU are shining as illuminators in the world, ¹⁶ **keeping a tight grip on the word of life,** . . .

while we avoid becoming religious and trying to judge the faith of others. Don't elevate other humans over you, then! "You" are one of the equally [*to our knowledge*] important soldiers in God's war... (**Eph 6:10-20**)

The gift seems to me, lies in being able to build our own faith and then being able to defend it before others; without also judging they have to agree with everything we say is right. So, ~~we~~ I just need to be listening to Christ as I understand I am judging my-own-self by my response to his words. (**Mat 12:36-37 of 33-37**) While trying not to judge other individuals, we do have to proclaim our scriptural faith, what ever the Bible says about the actions of their sect. I have a neighbor who says I am a fool to believe in God. I accept that's her expressing her faith. Maybe she is yet ignorant, or, maybe not... To her own master she is standing or falling. Actually, most all strongly religious people despise me. So, some part of me sometimes wishes [*briefly and temporarily*] I could be more peaceful by just saying all these Protestants and the Catholics are alright... Wouldn't, though, I also have to say that sincere Muslim womans form of worship is alright? How about those who sincerely worship chicken bones? Where would it end? Going along with what is bad as established in God's Word is very definitely not what Jesus taught." (**Mat 10:32-39**)

This, then, is what I think very simply and clearly distinguishes between Religionists and Christians: Christians try to help others by sharing [*directing them to read*] what Jesus Christ said,^{vi} while letting each person make their own personal decisions about what they think Jesus's teaching means for them personally. Christians have no doctrine except or beyond the Bible! Once a person asserts faith in Christ, no Christian has any "direction" left to give that person. They have taken responsibility to themselves. [*We might still give encouragement, by parroting Christ's*

words, but not direction. **Giving direction is Jesus's job...**^(viii) Religionists, being the opposite, develop and adhere to a set of rules, as they express belief in "their doctrine of faith" as well as faith in "their organization" [the group selected and isolated and usually named by their doctrine], which organizational doctrine both controls them and gives imagined authority to enforce control over other persons; trying to force them to conform to their sectarian code of conduct. **One clear identifying mark: "All" Religionists feel free to judge you wicked if you are not an approved member of their sect.** The fact they use Christ's name in trying to support "their" doctrine of judgment seems to me to have no more value than Muslims saying they are blessed by being Abraham's descendants.

John 5:39-44 ISV You examine the Scriptures carefully because you suppose that in them you have eternal life. Yet they testify about me. (40) But you are not willing to come to me [learn and build faith in Christ's actual words] to have life. (41) "I do not accept human praise. (42) I know that you do not have the love of God in you. (43) I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me. Yet if another man [some preacher] comes in his own name, you will accept him. (44) How can you believe when you accept each other's praise and do not look for the praise that comes from the only God?"

It can be hard to see the bad trees if you are living in the middle of the wrong forest. [Muslims growing up among Muslims or Baptists among Baptists or...] Your only safety, the only safety for any of us, lies in immersing ourselves in the words of Jesus Christ! [See John 8:31-32 on next to last page.]

Matthew 12:33-37 ISV "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten. For a tree is known by its fruit. [People's fruitage is: They direct others to the teachings of Jesus Christ, or to some religious sect, but it can't be both.] (34) You children of serpents [religious leaders]! How can you say anything good when you are evil?^{vii} For the mouth speaks out of the abundance of the heart. (35) A good person [a person actually following Christ] brings good things out of a good treasure, and an evil person [Religionists who are following other humans] brings evil things out of an evil treasure. (36) I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give an account for every thoughtless word they utter. (37) For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

God's final simple solution: Be certain we are actually listening to the words of Jesus Christ, and building and sharing our faith on what he alone said. And even then, be certain we are judging only ourselves, while we simply share with others what we know Jesus taught. Jesus specifically warned against following other men, or, trying to assert ourselves as lords over them. (Mat 23:1-15)^{viii} Drink wine or don't, then, we all stand before יהוה.

Romans 14:10-12 You then, who eat only vegetables---why do you pass judgment on others? And you who eat anything---why do you despise other believers? All of us will stand before God to be judged by him. (11) For the scripture says, "As surely as I am the living God, says יהוה, **everyone will kneel before me, and everyone will confess that I am God.**" (12) Every one of us, then, will have to give an account to God. (**1 Corinthians 4:1-5**) **4** Let a man so appraise us as being subordinates of Christ and stewards of sacred secrets of God [the teachings of Christ]. ² Besides, in this case, what is looked for in stewards is for a man to be found faithful. ³ Now to me it is a very trivial matter that I should be examined by YOU or by a human tribunal. Even I do not examine myself. ⁴ For I am not conscious of anything against myself. Yet by this I am not proved righteous, but he that examines me is יהוה. Hence ⁵ do not judge anything before the due time, until the Lord [Jesus] comes, who will both bring the secret things of darkness to light and make the counsels of the hearts manifest, and then each one will have his praise come to him from יהוה.

The teachings of The Christ have exposed the churches along with all false prophets! Do you see...? If we are successful in our stand before God, my absolute faith is it will be because we have each one approached יהוה through our personal faith in our one and only teacher and leader, Jesus Christ...^(viii) All that said about Christian freedom of choice, "drunkenness" [not the moderate drinking of wine] is a monster that kills, destroys families, and definitely is condemned by God's Word; along with lying, stealing, gluttony, homosexuality, greed and...

(1 Corinthians 6:9, 10) . . .! Do YOU not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. (Titus 1:10-12)

My faith is, then, whether we choose to drink wine (Psa 104:14-15) will have little meaning as to our relationship with יהוה. Your faith must be your own, of course. Beyond encouraging you to read and put faith in the words of Christ, I have no say in that matter of "your" faith. Hang on to this letter and re-read these scriptures often. They are important as a summation of the whole of the Bible; God's Word existing to direct us to Christ. (Gal 3:23-25)

I'm sorry I don't travel a lot to visit but I do love you and all our family, forever I hope. Sharing these scriptures is the best way I know to demonstrate that. And now, we do all know our Heavenly Father is listening, right? (Mal 3:16-4:3)

Joe

- i **Genesis 32:27-28 Darby** And he said to him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. (28) And he said, Thy name shall not henceforth be called Jacob, but Israel; for thou hast wrestled with God, and with men, and hast prevailed.
- ii **John 6:31-39 CEV** For example, when our ancestors were in the desert, they were given manna to eat. It happened just as the Scriptures say, 'God gave them bread from heaven to eat.' (32) Jesus then told them, "I tell you for certain that Moses wasn't the one who gave you bread from heaven. My Father is the one who gives you the true bread from heaven. (33) And the bread that God gives is the one who came down from heaven to give life to the world." (34) The people said, "Lord, give us this bread and don't ever stop!" (35) Jesus replied: I am the bread that gives life! No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who has faith in me will ever be thirsty. (36) I have told you already that you have seen me and still do not have faith in me *[to make effort to sit every day at his feet and listen to his words (Mark 3:31-35)^(vi)]*. (37) Everything and everyone that the Father has given me will come to me, and I won't turn any of them away. (38) I didn't come from heaven to do what I want! I came to do what the Father wants me to do. He sent me, (39) and he wants to make certain that none of the ones he has given me will be lost. Instead, he wants me to raise them to life on the last day.
- iii **John 15:11-16 LITV** I have spoken these things to you that My joy may abide in you, and your joy may be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I loved you. (13) Greater love than this has no one, that anyone should lay down his soul *[his life]* for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (15) I no longer call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his lord does. But I called you friends, because all things which I heard from My Father I made known to you. (16) You have not chosen Me, but I chose you out and planted you, that you should go and should bear fruit, and your fruit remain, that whatever you should ask the Father in My name, He may give you.
- iv **Isaiah 57:20 GNB** But evil people are like the restless sea, whose waves never stop rolling in, bringing filth and muck.
- v **Matthew 10:32-39 GNB** "Those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven. (33) But those who reject me publicly, I will reject before my Father in heaven. (34) "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the world. No, I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. (35) I came to set sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law; (36) your worst enemies will be the members of your own family. (37) "Those who love their father or mother more than me are not fit to be my disciples; those who love their son or daughter more than me are not fit to be my disciples. (38) Those who do not take up their cross and follow in my steps are not fit to be my disciples. (39) Those who try to gain their own life will lose it; but those who lose *[or are willing to give up]* their life for my sake will gain it.
- vi **Mark 3:31-35 CEV** Jesus' mother and brothers came and stood outside. Then they sent someone with a message for him to come out to them. (32) The crowd that was sitting around Jesus told him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside and want to see you." (33) Jesus asked, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" (34) Then he looked at the people sitting around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. (35) Anyone who obeys God is my brother or sister or mother."
- vii **John 8:42-51 GNB** Jesus said to them, "If God really were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own authority, but he sent me. (43) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to listen to my message. (44) You are the children of your father, the Devil, and you want to follow your father's desires. From the very beginning he was a murderer and has never been on the side of truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is only doing what is natural to him, because he is a liar and the father of all lies. (45) But I tell the truth, and that is why you do not believe me. (46) Which one of you can prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell the truth, then why do you not believe me? (47) He who comes from God listens to God's words. *[See John 6:44 above.]* You, however, are not from God, and that is why you will not listen." (48) They asked Jesus, "Were we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon in you?" (49) "I have no demon," Jesus answered. "I honor my Father, but you dishonor me. (50) I am not seeking honor for myself. But

there is one who is seeking it and who judges in my favor. (51) I am telling you the truth: whoever obeys my teaching will never die."

viii **Matthew 23:1-15 ISV** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, (2) "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. (3) So do whatever they tell you and follow it, but stop doing what they do, because they don't do what they say. (4) They tie up burdens that are heavy and unbearable and lay them on people's shoulders, but they refuse to lift a finger to remove them. (5) "They do all their actions to be seen by people. They increase the size of their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. (6) They love to have the places of honor at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, (7) to be greeted in the marketplaces, and to be called 'Rabbi' by people. (8) "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are brothers. (9) And don't call anyone on earth 'Father,' for you have only one Father, the one in heaven. (10) Nor are you to be called 'Teachers,' for you have only one teacher, the Christ! (11) The person who is greatest among you must be your servant. (12) Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (13) "How terrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door to the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You don't go in yourselves, and you don't allow those who are trying to enter to go in. (14) *How terrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You devour widows' houses and say long prayers to cover it up. Therefore, you will receive greater condemnation!* (15) "How terrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over sea and land to make a single convert, and when this happens you make him twice as fit for hell as you are.

Jesus said: “The truth will set you free.”

John 8:31-32 GW

So Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, "**If you live by what I say** [*or remain in my teachings*], you are truly my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and ***the truth will set you free.***"

Please note: Jesus was here speaking to a group of Jews. The Jews had previously been God's chosen nation. God split the Red Sea to free them from slavery in Egypt and protected from other nations; including those who would later become Muslims. Still, after hearing Jesus's words, Jews have to abandon the group practicing Judaism and follow Christ as individuals. ([Gal 3:10-14](#)) Imagine how it would even more apply to a little Muslim boy or girl, or man or woman, growing from infancy being taught the Islamic faith [*to kill non-Muslims*]. How, though, about a [Catholic](#) or Mormon or other [Protestant](#), taught "their" groups beliefs from youth? This correction by Jesus to set themselves free of their previous form of worship applies to every person in every religion; to all except those "individuals" already personally [following](#) Jesus's teachings. If you feel [blessed](#) by being a member of any of those sects given special names by men, if you call yourself anything besides or in addition to "Christian," ([Acts 11:26](#)) I fear you do not know Christ at all... It is not named [groups](#) of people God is preserving alive. It is individuals with [absolute faith](#) in the words of Jesus Christ. ([Mat 17:5](#); [Mal 3:16-4:3](#); [Heb 10:38-39](#)) Have you set yourself free?

John 8:31-32 LITV

(31) Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, **If you continue in My Word**, you are truly My disciples. (32) And you will know the truth, and ***the truth will set you free.***

John 8:31-32 MKJV

(31) Then Jesus said to the Jews who believed on Him, **If you continue in My Word**, you are My disciples indeed. (32) And you shall know the truth, and ***the truth shall make you free.***

This chart explains how much of the world believe they can trace their religion back to Abraham through a son of his wives Sarah or Hagar.

Muslims hate Jews because of land given Abraham some 4000 years ago by יהיה. Their forefathers were displaced by God's works using Jews to produce the Messiah; who is saviour of "all" mankind. (Gen 15:17-21; Gen 18:17-19; Ga 3:26-29) The Jews murdered the Christian Messiah. (John 19:6; Acts 2:29-36)

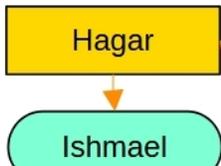
Where Religious Hate Comes From.

Muhammad was a man who asserted he was a prophet. He founded Islam in the 7th century CE in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. He said an angel (Gabriel) gave him the Qur'an as the word of Allah, the only true God. That seems similar to the claims of Joseph Smith, and the book of Mormon he said was given him by the Angel Gabriel. Muhammad said he was a descendant of Ishmael; thus born among the sons of Abraham. All practisers of Islam are Muslims; about 1/4 of the world's population. Muslims believe the Torah and the Psalms and the Gospels are also from prophets, but were corrupted or lost. The Qur'an, according to Muhammad, however, is the last message from Allah and miraculously preserved perfect so no further prophet is needed. The Qur'an says infidels (non-believers) should be killed whenever possible. (Quran 2:191)

Christians and Jews Thus trace their Lineage to Abraham through the Bible. All who put faith in Christ are Blessed. (Galatians 3:26-29)* All other religions; [Catholics follow the Pope from 400 AD, Mormons follow The book of Mormon From 1830 AD, Muslims follow the Qur'an from 700 AD, Jehovah's Witnesses follow "faithful slave" from 1850 AD] have teachings that came after the Bible; And, each sects teaching in some way contradicts it.

Abraham
Bible recorded father of Jews and Christians

Yellow: Important Characters in the lineage from Abraham to Jesus Christ



Abraham's Children By

Sarah

Isaac

By Rebecca

Jacob
Renamed Israel By God. Father of Jewish Nation.

Keturah

Zimran
Jokshan
Medan
Midian
Ishbak
Shuah

Essau

*Galatians 3:26 GNB It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus.

By Leah

Reuben (1)*
Simeon (2)*
Levi (3)
Judah (4)*
Issachar (9)*
Zebulun (10)*
Dinah

By Bilhah

Dan (5)*
Naphtali (6)*

By Tamar

11 Gens 2
David
(Mat 1:17)

28 Gens 2
Jesus Christ
The Jew who Is Father of Christianity

By Zilpah

Gad (7)*
Asher (8)*

By Rachel

Joseph (11)

Benjamin (12)*
By Asenath

Manasseh*
Ephraim*

Judaism morphed into Christianity.
Acts 13:16-41

The twelve sons of Jacob [Israel] (born 1-12) became the twelve tribes* of the Jewish Nation, well, sort of. Levi became a nation of Priests with no land inheritance. Joseph was promised a double portion so his sons Manasseh and Ephraim became two of the tribes of Israel. Dina was born (11) after Zebulun. Their existence served as a tutor to Christ. (Gal 3:24)

The Bible's beautiful drama (1 Cor 4:9) reflecting mankind's existence over our 6000 years since Adam. All Muslims, Jews, and professed Christians alike, need to be certain it is the actual words of Jesus Christ they have faith in. (Mat 7:15; Gal 3:26-29)