Weigh In

Weighing the facts about India

1. **The Taj Mahal, a world-famous structure in India that is over 370 years old, has been visited by more than five million people annually.**

2. **Pottery is the art and craft of shaping clay with a special wheel to create beautiful ceramics. India is known for its intricate designs.**

3. **In India, it is common for Hindu nationalist groups to have informants in nearly every community. These informants eagerly report the activities of their Christian neighbours.**

4. **Christians account for only five percent of India's population. The other 95 percent consists mostly of Hindus who strongly oppose the presence of Christianity.**

Corresponding Question Points:

(1) What's your opinion? Why do people travel from across the globe to visit the Taj Mahal and other significant landmarks around the world? Is it merely to look at beautiful structures, or are there other reasons?

(2) In pottery, each lump of clay is formed based on what the potter envisions and shapes. No two pieces will be identical. Read Romans 9 and compare God's creation of humanity to a potter's creation of their masterpiece.

(3) Hindu extremists often attack Christians during the Christmas and Easter seasons in order to convince followers of Jesus to return to Hinduism. Do violent attacks ever fully convince someone to adopt the same beliefs as their attackers? How does Christ teach us to make disciples?

(4) If you were in a situation similar to that of persecuted Indian believers, how would you change your Christian witness to protect yourself from being reported and potentially targeted for violence? Would you change anything? Explain your answer.

One Way

Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

If you are a Christian, must you believe that the concepts of all other religions are completely wrong? No, since there tends to be a hint of truth in most fallacies. The challenge is recognizing those lies when you hear them. **By comparing Christianity to other religions, we can break down human beliefs into categories to provide a clear understanding of different worldviews.**

The first major division separating humanity stems from those who believe in some kind of deity (a god)...

...and those who do not believe in a deity.

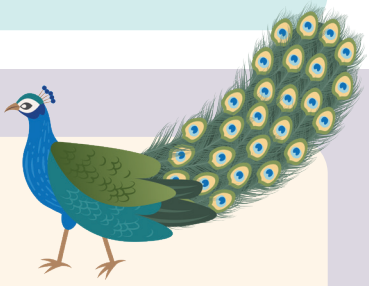
When it comes to deity, Christians are in line with the majority of the world's population, including those who adhere to Hinduism, the predominant religion of India. However, Hindus not only believe that there is some sort of divine being, but that there are *many* gods – 330 million, to be precise. **The next category further divides humanity, based on who we worship.**

Group #1: Individuals belonging to the first group (including Hindus) believe that all gods are outside of "good" and "evil." They do not see these two concepts as objective truths, but rather perceptions that are dependant on people's perspectives.

Group #2: The other belief system, which is upheld by Christians, acknowledges that God is absolutely good and righteous. He is, as C.S. Lewis writes, "a God who takes sides, who loves love and hates hatred, who wants us to behave in one way and not in another."[1]

Fun Facts:

The Indian peacock was named India's National Bird in 1963. It is a colourful bird, about the size of a swan, with a fan-shaped crest of feathers on its head, a white patch under each of its eyes, and a long thin neck.



Endnote: [1] C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Barbour and Company, Inc., 1952, p. 32.