

World Religions And Cults 101 A Guide To Spiritual Beliefs Christianity 101

A compilation of the entire Facts On series, Cult Watch gives you facts about the major cults and movements in a format you can use in counseling or witnessing.

In the new Christianity 101™ series, Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz provide their easy-to-understand explanations about facets of the Christian walk in a style that invites believers and seekers to discover God, His Word, and His promises for daily living. This book is brimming with joy! Readers of all backgrounds will love the inspiring descriptions of God's nature, His personality, and His activities. Curious inquirers and earnest seekers will find straightforward responses to essential questions about God: Eternity--where did God come from? The trinity--is God three people, or is He one? The Bible--did God really communicate His own thoughts to us? Perfect for personal study or group use. Formerly titled Bruce & Stan's® Guide to God

The Message of the Alien God and the Beginnings of Christianity

World-renown cult experts Ron Carlson and Ed Decker combine their extensive knowledge to give readers quick, clear facts on the major cults and false teachings of today. Short, informative chapters contrast the cults' theologies with the truth found in God's Word. Readers will discover the key facts on— Atheism Buddhism Evolution Hinduism Islam Satanism And more Fast

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Facts® on False Teachings is an easy-to-use resource that provides powerful insights for sharing the biblical gospel with people ensnared by false religions and philosophies.

The book you hold resonates with this conviction: that leaders such as you have the potential to be the most influential forces on planet Earth. Yours is the staggering responsibility and the matchless privilege of rallying believers and mobilizing their spiritual gifts in order to help people who are far from God become fully devoted followers of Christ. Life transformation and the eternal destinies of real people depend on the redemptive message entrusted to the local church. Are you willing to do whatever it takes to lead your church effectively so God's message of hope can change the world? Then this book is for you. *Courageous Leadership* is Bill Hybels' magnum opus, a book far too important to be written before its time. Only now, after nearly thirty years leading his own church from a handful of people with a burning vision into a globe-spanning kingdom force—only after almost three decades of victories and setbacks, of praying hard and risking big—is Hybels ready at last to share the lessons he has learned, and continues to learn, about Christian leadership. Too much is at stake for you not to maximize your spiritual gift of leadership, insists Hybels. In this passionate, powerful book, he unpacks the tools, tasks, and challenges of your calling. You'll discover the power of vision and how to turn it into action. You'll gain frontline insights for developing a kingdom dream team, discovering your leadership style, developing other leaders, making decisions, walking with

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God, embracing change, staying your God-given course, and much, much more. Drawing on his own richly varied life experiences, Hybels fleshes out vital principles with riveting firsthand stories. This is far more than another book on leadership strategies and techniques. You'll find those topics in here, to be sure. But beyond them, you'll find the very essence of one of today's foremost Christian leaders—his fervent commitment to evangelism and discipleship and his zeal to inspire fellow church leaders even as he seeks to keep growing as a leader himself. If unchurched people matter to you . . . if you love seeing believers serve passionately with their spiritual gifts . . . if God's heartbeat for the church is your heartbeat as well . . . then this book is a must. *Courageous Leadership* will convince you to lead with all your might, all your skill, and all your faith. And it will give you the tools to do just that.

Examines the complex realities of religious belief, practice and institutions, ranging from the high growth rates of successful minority religious movements such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, to the phenomenal rise of Pentecostalism, the challenge of 'fundamentalism' and the apparent turn from religion to spirituality.

Authors John Ankerberg and Dillon Burroughs continue their exciting *What's the Big Deal?* series with concise, informative answers to the many questions people are asking about the major religious groups in the world. The groups in this book are so widespread that readers are likely to encounter their followers in their own neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. Which makes it important to understand what they believe, and why.

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Included in this volume are Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, and the Jehovah's Witnesses. And for each group, readers will discover... the origins and history the key teachings and leaders the major writings the traditions and special observances how they differ from Christianity Ankerberg and Burroughs are masterful at focusing on the key essentials readers need to know. And they include many exclusive interviews with experts, as well as numerous fascinating insights--all of which makes for compelling reading.

Do you wonder if God exists? Do you wonder if life even has any meaning at all? Do you wonder if Christian faith has answers to these and other difficult questions? An intelligent faith begins with hard questions. In *On Guard for Students* William Lane Craig tackles such questions with reason and precision. He invites you to join him on a quest for ultimate reality. This unique book takes you on an extraordinary journey of exploration as you probe for answers to life's deepest questions: why anything at all exists, the origin and fine-tuning of the universe, the nature of moral values and the reality of evil, the historical person of Jesus of Nazareth, and so on.

Completely revised and updated for the postmodern age, *So What's the Difference?* gives you easy-to-understand, nonjudgmental answers to the question, "How does orthodox biblical Christianity differ from other faiths?" Here Fritz Ridenour explains the basic tenets of Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, New Age, Mormonism, and other religions and belief systems of the world. You

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will also learn why relative thinking--the idea that there is no objective, absolute truth--has become the predominant mindset in our culture, and how you can respond. This bestselling guide will help you recognize the real differences between the Christian faith and other viewpoints and make it easier for you to explain and share your faith with others.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7 You've likely scratched your head over this verse, wondering how literally to take it. Could Jesus have been serious about His over-the-top declaration? Can you really ask for anything? If you think these words can't possibly mean what they say, Craig Hazen wants to reveal the astonishing reality of this promise. You'll learn why Christians hesitate to embrace this powerful statement and how you can put it to work in your life for the sake of God's kingdom. According to the Lord himself, "asking" is the center point of prayer. He wants us to bring our fruit-bearing requests to him boldly and with expectation for the blessing of his answer. He wants to hear our Fearless Prayer!

A masterful and eye-opening examination of Trump and the coercive control tactics he uses to build a fanatical devotion in his supporters written by "an authority on breaking away from cults...an argument that...bears consideration as the next election cycle heats up" (Kirkus Reviews). Since the 2016 election, Donald Trump's behavior has become both more disturbing and yet increasingly familiar. He relies on phrases like, "fake news," "build the wall," and continues to spread the

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divisive mentality of us-vs.-them. He lies constantly, has no conscience, never admits when he is wrong, and projects all of his shortcomings on to others. He has become more authoritarian, more outrageous, and yet many of his followers remain blindly devoted. Scott Adams, the creator of Dilbert and a major Trump supporter, calls him one of the most persuasive people living. His need to squash alternate information and his insistence of constant ego stroking are all characteristics of other famous leaders—cult leaders. In *The Cult of Trump*, mind control and licensed mental health expert Steven Hassan draws parallels between our current president and people like Jim Jones, David Koresh, Ron Hubbard, and Sun Myung Moon, arguing that this presidency is in many ways like a destructive cult. He specifically details the ways in which people are influenced through an array of social psychology methods and how they become fiercely loyal and obedient. Hassan was a former “Moonie” himself, and he presents a “thoughtful and well-researched analysis of some of the most puzzling aspects of the current presidency, including the remarkable passivity of fellow Republicans [and] the gross pandering of many members of the press” (Thomas G. Gutheil, MD and professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School). *The Cult of Trump* is an accessible and in-depth analysis of the president, showing that under the right circumstances, even sane, rational, well-adjusted people can be persuaded to believe the most outrageous ideas. “This book is a must for anyone who wants to understand the current political climate” (Judith Stevens-

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Long, PhD and author of *Living Well, Dying Well*). Free of clichés or rhetorical arguments, a primer on Christian apologetics tackles vital questions people of all ages and beliefs are asking, presenting evidence from the world, history, and lives of people who have been changed by something bigger than themselves. Original. Religions of the Far East like Hinduism, Buddhism, and New Age have been gaining a foothold in the Western world. We even see witchcraft on the rise and paganism infiltrating the minds of the next generation—even in Christian homes! Why is that? How can a Christian respond? We already know how the one true God has responded, and in this title you will learn: How a Christian can effectively witness for Christ. How to refute these false religions. What it truly is that these religions teach and why. The Christ follower should be set at ease knowing that all other gods are false as the all-knowing God of Scripture has revealed that He is the only God. Therefore, this volume dives into these styles of religions and looks at their origins and their basic tenets as well as why they fall so short. Understanding the basic tenets of these religions helps the Bible believer see the flaws in these philosophies. In this way one can better discern how to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ while standing on the authority of the Bible. Religions in today's culture seem to be multiplying. Have you ever wondered why certain religions believe and practice what they do? Or how they view the Bible? This volume delves into these and other engaging questions, such as: How can a Christian witness to people in these religions? Do these other religions

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believe in creation and a Creator? How do we deal with these religions from a biblical authority perspective? Many religions and cults discussed in this first volume openly affirm that the Bible is true, but then something gets in their way. And there is a common factor every time—man’s fallible opinions. In one way or another the Bible gets demoted, reinterpreted, or completely ignored. Man’s ideas are used to throw the Bible’s clear teaching out the window while false teachings are promoted. This book is a must for laymen, church leaders, teachers, and students to understand the trends in our culture and around the world where certain religions dominate, helping you discern truth and guard your faith. When you understand a religion’s origins and teachings, you are in a better position to know how to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as you take the good news to those in false religions.

A refreshingly honest and often humorous look at some believers' outlandish behaviors helps bridge the communication gap between Christians and non-Christians, helping Christians share their beliefs more freely without judgmental attitudes, hypocrisy, and condemnation. Original.

With all of the different religions, sects, denominations, and belief systems out there, it can be difficult to separate the facts from mere opinion, especially if one is relying solely on online sources which may or may not be vetted and which often have an ideological or political slant to them. How can we truly understand if we cannot even be sure we are getting the facts straight? In this comprehensive resource, more than 75 evangelical

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scholars offer a thoroughly researched guide to Christianity, other world religions, and alternative religious views, including entries on movements, theological terms, and major historical figures. Perfect for pastors, students, and anyone who wants ready access to information on today's religious landscape.

Simple yet comprehensive, this guide offers a witty discussion of the scientific difficulties with the theory of evolution, evidence pointing to creation and intelligent design, the Christian approach to science, and how Genesis relates to the latest findings, while challenging the reader to think clearly and critically about the facts and opinions of science and their impact on our understanding of the Bible. Original.

I was raised in a homegrown, fundamentalist Christian group—which is just a shorthand way of saying I'm classically trained in apocalyptic stockpiling, street preaching, and the King James Version of the Bible. I know hundreds of obscure nineteenth-century hymns by heart and have such razor sharp "modesty vision" that I can spot a miniskirt a mile away. Verily, verily I say unto thee, none of these highly specialized skills ever got me a job, but at least I'm all set for the end of the world. Selah. A story of mind control, the Apocalypse, and modest attire. Elizabeth Esther grew up in love with Jesus but in fear of daily spankings (to "break her will"). Trained in her family-run church to confess sins real and imagined, she knew her parents loved

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her and God probably hated her. Not until she was grown and married did she find the courage to attempt the unthinkable. To leave. In her memoir, readers will recognize questions every believer faces: When is spiritual zeal a gift, and when is it a trap? What happens when a pastor holds unchecked sway over his followers? And how can we leave behind the harm inflicted in the name of God without losing God in the process? By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, *Girl at the End of the World* is a story of the lingering effects of spiritual abuse and the growing hope that God can still be good when His people fail. Includes reading group discussion guide and interview with the author

In this indispensable reference tool for parents, students, and pastors alike, Larson analyzes dozens of world religions and spiritual movements from Islam to UFOs, New Age movements to witchcraft. This volume helps address tough questions from a biblical perspective.

This 6-session (30 minutes each) DVD-based curriculum leader's guide is for small groups that wish to study the differences between various religions and cult groups from a Christian perspective.

With extensive biblical knowledge and a fresh, contemporary perspective, Bickel and Jantz provide an easy-to-understand approach to God's written message. Also includes insights into unusual

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customs of Bible times, a personal three-month study plan, and much more.

Bickel and Jantz, the coauthor team of the Christianity 101 series, share their answers to more than 200 questions posed to them about life and living the Christian faith.

Mormonism is one of the fastest growing religions in the world. For those who have wondered in what specific ways Mormonism differs from the Christian faith, Mormonism 101 provides definitive answers, examining the major tenets of Mormon theology and comparing them with orthodox Christian beliefs.

Perfect for students of religion and anyone who wants to have answers when Mormons come calling.

A comprehensive introduction to the religions of the world analyzed from a Christian perspective Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions covers more than 200 religions, sects, and cults, most of them ones the reader might encounter on any given day. It is the most complete and up-to-date Christian guide to world religions. Perfect for the student as well as the layperson. Written by leading expert in religions, James A. Beverley.

This second edition examines all aspects of Roman history, and contains a new introduction, three new chapters and updated bibliographies.

Provides information about the key influences, spiritual figures, sacred stories, traditions, doctrines, and dogmas of each of the world's major religions.

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You Mean to Say You Don't Know the Meaning of * Monophysitism * Hypostatic Union * Infralapsarian * Traducianism * Chiliastic * Pneumatomachian Cheer up! You don't have to have thousand-dollar vocabulary in order to grasp the priceless basics of Christianity. Christianity 101 bridges the gap between biblical scholarship and people who want to understand the Christian faith. This book presents eight basic doctrines of Christianity--The Bible, God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Human Beings, Redemption, The Church, and The Last Things--in clear, simple language that gives seasoned Christians a fresh understanding of the Bible and its teachings and puts new Christians on familiar terms with Christian doctrine. Gilbert Bilezikian does not shape his analysis of these doctrines in the worn-out, rationalistic categories of older systematic theologies, but in vibrant, dynamic language designed to communicate biblical truths to contemporary believers.

How often have you encountered some bizarre doctrine only to be stunned to hear a Bible verse quoted to support it? With new religious cults springing up almost daily and old ones growing rapidly, this is more and more common. How are they seemingly able to twist Scripture to mean something orthodox Christians have never believed it to mean in two thousand years? James Sire, author of *The Universe Next Door* and *How to Read Slowly*, has isolated twenty separate kinds of reading errors which are characteristically made by cultists as they interpret the Bible. He covers the full range from simple misquotation to complex argumentation which links one slightly eccentric interpretation to another,

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mixes in a few orthodox readings and ends with a conclusion totally foreign to the biblical world view. Sire also handles twisted translation, overspecification, virtue by association, ignoring the context and other flawed interpretations. A book to help us all become better readers of the Scriptures.

With their trademark "unchurchy" language, the authors explore the core issues of more than a dozen religions, with clear explanations not only helping readers understand what others believe, but also encouraging them to think through their own beliefs. Original.

From Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz, authors of *Knowing the Bible 101*, a trim, 45-page booklet is perfect for new believers, Christians who want a handy evangelistic tool, and churchgoers who are ready to rediscover the essentials of the Christian life. Readers will immediately connect with Bruce and Stan's honest, encouraging responses to questions new Christians often ask: What do I do next? Am I expected to follow some rules and regulations? What have I gotten myself into? Brief chapters on eternal security, new life in Christ, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit set the tone for this clear and compelling introduction to the faith. With their engaging, straightforward style, Bruce and Stan explain what God has done for humanity, what God wants people to do so they can know Him better, and how individuals can reflect the love of Christ to the world.

Free. Unearned. A gift. God's acceptance comes with no strings attached as you trust in His Son, Jesus. This is the whole gospel. But for 2000 years, Christians—including the first-century Galatians—have often believed

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they must add performance requirements to the gospel in order to truly earn God's approval. Listen in as the apostle Paul blows the lid off this self-deception by explaining...: why the Good News becomes bad news when you mix it with rules, how to sniff out people who are promoting a false, "rules-added" gospel, why adding requirements to God's grace actually subtracts from your enjoying Christ, why trust is the only thing needed to receive God's grace and live in it day to day, Galatians shows you that life in God's Spirit, through His grace, is still His plan for freedom-so you can live out your full potential as His child. Book jacket.

Explores recent high profile cases of new religious movements involved in violence.

Across America and the world dangerous New Age cults and religious groups are growing in strength and numbers. Here is the authoritative guide to the New Age cults and religions infecting and threatening our society. It carefully analyzes these groups and provides answers to the questions most commonly asked about them.

Why are there so many religions? Do they basically teach the same thing? Bruce and Stan address these questions and more as they take a close look at some of the world's major religions and belief systems. From Islam to Jehovah's Witnesses and from New Age Spirituality to Atheism, Darwinism, and Naturalism, *World Religions and Cults 101* features-- key teachings of each religion quick-glance belief charts brief biographies of leaders study questions for group or individual use suggested reading Readers will also discover why spiritual searching is universal, how each religion

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compares to Christianity, the characteristics of cults, and what makes Christianity unique. Formerly titled Bruce & Stan's(R) Guide to Cults, Religions, and Spiritual Beliefs Enjoy a year's worth of inspiration—and then some!—with Barbour's perpetual calendar line. With four fantastic titles to choose from, you're sure to find a perfect fit. Newly updated, this definitive reference work on major cult systems is the gold standard text on cults with nearly a million copies sold.

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EXPANDED TO INCLUDE NEW ENTRIES AND NEW INFORMATION • Updated information on Islam and its global impact • New entries: the Branch Davidians, Native American religions, Heaven's Gate, Aum Supreme Truth, the Boston Movement, the Masonic Lodge, and many others • Developments in the world of cults and the occult Encyclopedic Dictionary of Cults, Sects, and World Religions is arguably the most significant reference book on the subject to be published. Formerly titled Dictionary of Cults, Sects, Religions, and the Occult, it provides reliable information on the history and beliefs of nearly every form of religion active today. This extensively revised edition includes new topics, updated information, and a brand-new format for a clearer, more organized approach. The authors evaluate the beliefs and practices of each group from the perspective of the Bible and the historic creeds of the Christian church. You'll also find group histories, numerous illustrations, charts, current statistics, websites, bibliographies, and other useful information. Provides Old and New Testament text, accompanied by articles and features to help young students better articulate and defend their faith as they begin to approach young adulthood.

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