

Reflections

Volume 40

1

Catholic Family Newsletter

December 2018

Do Christians Believe In Reincarnation?

**What Are You Doing With the One Life You
Were Given?**

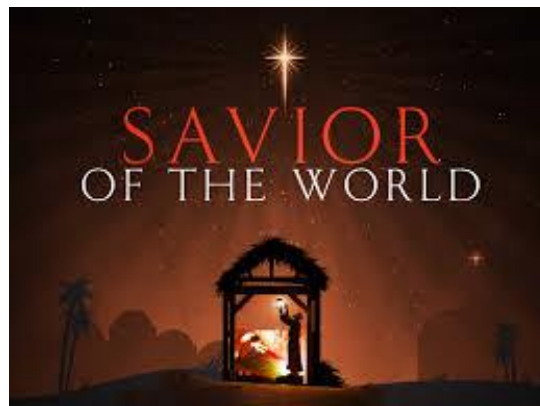
The Problem With Cursing

Blessings to All:

When I was looking for inspiration for this month's articles, my mind focused on several subjects including reincarnation. I was surprised to find that some 20%-25% of ¹Christians believe in reincarnation from various Studies and Polls in America.

The New Age Movement and lure of Eastern Religions have accounted for some of the Christian belief in reincarnation or the possibility of being reincarnated. Let me define the term 'reincarnation'. The term comes from the Latin and means to return to the flesh again after death.

It has an appeal to some Christians, since you can erase the thought of Hell or Purgatory. You get to come back and do it all over again until you get it right. **But it is false.** If you are a Christian and tell others that you believe in Reincarnation, you are really telling others that Christ's words in the Bible are not true. If you deny Christ' teachings, you need to really rethink your belief in one life only.



¹ <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2015/10/21/25-percent-us-christians-believe-reincarnation-whats-wrong-picture>

Well written article on Christians and Reincarnation

Why Do Christians Think Reincarnation is True?

by [Matt Slick](#)

Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry



What makes you think that reincarnation is true? Believing it to be true doesn't mean that it is. Yes, I know, believing Christianity is true doesn't make it true either. But there is a big difference. In Christianity, we have Jesus. Jesus said He was the only Way. "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me," (John 14:6). Jesus also performed many miracles. He walked on water, healed sicknesses, raised people from the dead, and claimed to be

God in flesh. Because of these things, we need to look at Him seriously and consider what He is saying.



Now, if Joe Schmoe on the street said that he was the only way to God, we'd look at him and say, "Yeah, right." But, if Joe calmed a storm with a command, raised someone from the dead, walked on water, etc., that would add a lot of credibility to his claim. After all, he is demonstrating extraordinary abilities consistent with his extraordinary claim.

This is the case with Jesus. He made extraordinary claims and performed extraordinary deeds. Therefore, it is logical to conclude that what Jesus said was true -- especially since He claimed to be God (John 8:24,58; 10:30-33, 5:18)



Jesus commissioned the apostles to teach and preach the Christian faith. In Heb 9:27 it says, "**And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.**" This verse alone shows that reincarnation is not true. Also, reincarnation negates the necessity of the Cross because reincarnation teaches you

can have different lives in which to try and "get it right." Not so in Christianity. According to the Bible, God gives us one chance to escape the clutches of sin and damnation. God has given us the Law which states that we are not to lie, to cheat, or steal. But we all have. Therefore, we are all under the judgment of God, and He will execute His judgment upon sinners on the Day of Judgment. If reincarnation is true, then there is no Day of Judgment, no need of a sacrifice, no need to trust in Christ.

A person needs Christianity because reincarnation does not remove sin. Also, reincarnation contradicts the Bible which presents Jesus with His miracles, fulfilled prophecies, resurrection, and so much more. Reincarnation denies the Day of Judgment. Also, think about this. Reincarnation works with karma, the idea that your past lives of "goodness" or "badness" affects the quality and position of your next incarnation. The purpose of reincarnation is to help you develop perfect karma by which you might then achieve a union with the divine consciousness after you have learned whatever it is you are supposed to learn. The problem is that each person had a first incarnation. **That means that each person then had perfect Karma since he had no previous life and had done nothing wrong. Therefore, if he had perfect Karma and didn't learn or do what he was supposed to in his first life, then what makes him think that after hundreds of incarnations with accumulated bad karma that he will be able to achieve the perfect state of union with the divine consciousness that reincarnation moves him toward? It doesn't make any sense.**

But what does make sense is that there is one God who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and the only way to have your sins forgiven is to trust in Him and not your own efforts through various lives to try to become perfect. That is why you need Jesus because reincarnation is not only false but also is empty.

So, why do so many Christians still believe in Reincarnation? It is mind-blowing.



Billy Graham answered that question in a simple and straight forward way. "One reason Christians don't believe in reincarnation—the belief that we come back to life over and over again—is because they believe in heaven.

After all, if heaven is real (as Christians believe), then there isn't any need for an endless cycle of dying and coming back to Earth. In fact, why would we want to return time and time again to the pain and insecurities of this life? Ahead of us is the glory of heaven! As the Bible says, "I consider that

our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

"There is, however, another reason why (most) Christians reject the idea of reincarnation. It is this: No matter how long we lived—or how many lives we had—we could never erase the stain of sin that keeps us from God. In other words, we could never reach perfection. But God loves us and has provided the way for all our sins to be forgiven. That way is Jesus Christ, who died as the one final sacrifice for our sins."



The Bible Teaching is Clear on Reincarnation.

The Letter to the Hebrews responds to the question of "more than one lifetime" in saying that it is "appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment" (9: 27). ***If you believe in Jesus***

Christ and His death on the cross for our sins, then you cannot believe in reincarnation. The two ideas are opposed to each other.

²If the sin record of all our trespasses has been erased, (by Jesus on the cross), there is no need to come back again and again trying to expunge the negative imprints on our life record. The central message of the gospel is that our fulfillment is not our doing or the result of our own efforts, but rather a gift of God's grace. So, neither one nor many lives can be adequate for reaching perfection. At the heart of Christian faith stands a Savior. "This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance," wrote the apostle Paul: "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1: 15).

² <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2015/10/21/25-percent-us-christians-believe-reincarnation-whats-wrong-picture>

For those Christians that profess their belief in reincarnation, I refer you to the Bible passages below for consideration. Find Truth...Stay in Truth

New Testament

1. Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for people to **die once—and after this, judgment.**
2. Matthew 25:46 "And they will **go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."**
3. Luke 23:43 And he said to him, "**Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**"
4. Matthew 18:8 "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have **two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.**
5. Philippians 3:20 **But our citizenship is in heaven,** and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Old Testament

6. Ecclesiastes 3:2 a time to be born and **a time to die**, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
7. Psalm 78:39 He remembered that they were but flesh, **a wind that passes and comes not again.**
8. Job 7:9-10 As the cloud fades and vanishes, **so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up; he returns no more to his house, nor does his place know him anymore.**
9. 2 Samuel 12:23 But now he is dead. Why should I fast? **Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."**
10. Psalm 73:17-19 till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. **How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!**
11. Ecclesiastes 12:5 they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, **because man is going to his eternal home,** and the mourners go about the streets



Humans have one life only. After death there is a judgement and no coming back. If you know someone who believes in reincarnation and is a Christian, you might consider sending them this newsletter.

The grace of Jesus Christ can save you. Choose wisely in making eternal decisions.

So, here is a question to ask yourself...

What Are You Doing With the One Life Given You



Some people struggle all their lives barely making a living for themselves and their families but are happy. Others who are rich are never happy and always want more.

Some people are addicted to drugs or alcohol and use all their money and time seeking more drugs and alcohol. Some people are addicted to pornography and other forms of self-induced slavery.

Life is not all peaches and cream. When you were young, the world was new and exciting. As you get older, the decision you make, impact your life and your future and those you love. **Ask Yourself this question:**

What am I doing with the one Life I was given?

Be honest. No one is grading you on Your answer but You. Are you at peace in your soul? No matter what job you have or income you have. Are you at peace in your soul? Is God in your life for all the good and bad that happens to you?

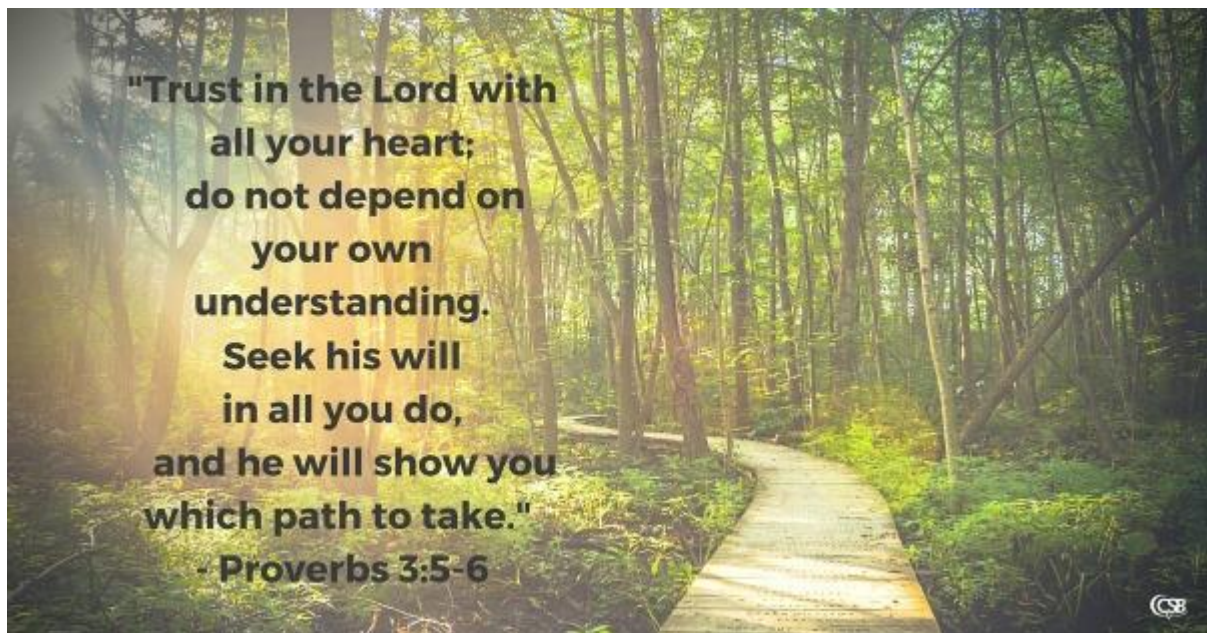
**GOD surely listens,
understands and knows
the hopes
and fears you keep in
your heart. For
when you trust in His
love, miracles
happen!**

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We all have a place in God's plan for us. Some plans include being a father, mother, teacher, police officer, judge, auto mechanic, attorney, priest etc. These are all wonderful vocations in life. And each vocation has its ups and downs. You will not find perfect happiness in life in any of these vocations. Life is not all happiness. Normal disappointments and problems are faced by all of us. These things can bring us closer to God when we trust in God's love for us as a Loving Father.

Without asking God to be in your life as a guiding compass, you can get lost in a world

full of hate and "me first" lifestyles.



The roads we go down in life can take us away from loving each other as Christ loves us; can alter us so much that we no longer care for family, friends or people we work with. These are signs of trouble. Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines. You need to change with God's especially in troubled marriages.

What are the obstacles you are facing in your life, that causes you to suffer? Is it a sin you cannot overcome? Is it a drug that has taken over your life? Is it alcohol

that you can't live without? Whatever is keeping you from being the person God wants you to be, *there is an answer.*

³Our Lady of Medjugorje in her message on November 2, 2018 mentions all of us. And gives us the answer to changing our lives. ***Read her message carefully and see yourself in some of her words of love to you.*** God's spirit wants to abide in you to help you in this world.

“ Dear children, My motherly heart suffers as I am looking at my children who do not love the truth, those who are hiding it - as I look at my children who do not pray with their feelings and actions. I am sad as I am saying to my Son that many of my children no longer have faith, that they do not know Him - my Son. That is why I call you, apostles of my love: you strive to look to the very depth in human hearts and there you are certain to find the little hidden treasure.



To look in this way is mercy from the Heavenly Father. To seek the good even where there is the greatest evil - to strive to comprehend each other and not to judge - that is what my Son is asking of you. And I, as a mother, am calling you to listen to Him.

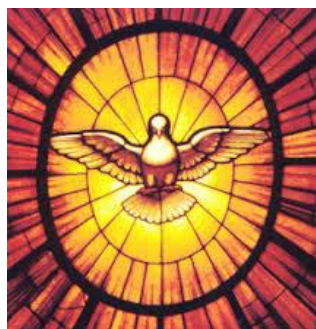
My children, the spirit is mightier than the flesh, and, carried by love and actions, it overcomes all obstacles.



Do not forget: my Son has loved you and loves you. His love is with you and in you when you are one with Him. He is the light of the world and no one and nothing will be able to stop Him in the final glory.

Therefore, apostles of my love, do not be afraid to witness the truth. Witness it with enthusiasm, with works, with love, with your sacrifice, and, above all, in humility.

³ The Catholic Church has not ruled on the reported Apparitions as of this date.



Witness the truth to all those who have not come to know my Son. I will be alongside you. I will encourage you. Witness the love which never ends because it comes from the Heavenly Father who is eternal and who offers eternity to all of my children.

The spirit of my Son will be alongside you. Anew I am calling you, my children: pray for your shepherds, pray that the love of my Son may lead them. Thank you."

If you want to change your life to be more fulfilling and more loving, then start by asking Jesus to come into your life and help you become the person God wants you to be. You may not see a change overnight. It's a process. But change for the better will happen. Your heart wants to find peace and your soul wants to know God. God wants you to have peace and happiness in your life.

Change starts with one simple step. *Tell Jesus every day* you need Him and tell Him about the pains, troubles, disappointments and feelings you have. Let God's light come into your heart. Change will happen.

Do You Curse All The Time?



One of the most-subtle ways of lowering America's standards of morality and decency is the increasingly public use of cursing and profanity. Yes, there are laws against the use of foul, filthy language in public, but these laws are rarely enforced.

People let go of an explicit when they hit their thumb with a hammer or get scarred. But most of those words are a form of manure, if you get my point. Oh s**t.

The use of f-bomb words is as common today as sunshine. Some use of profanity is very bad, like the f-bomb or mother f-bomb. Cursing for some is to show how tough they are and want to use f* word for all their verbs, adjectives, nouns and pronouns. For these people it is a sign or badge of honor. Being tough needs bad words to communicate that toughness. *But it could be a sign of a problem with their soul.* The condition of the soul sometimes leaks out in the words we use.



Others who use this f-bomb word or a combination of mother f-bomb, bring a foulness from the heart into their mouths which stains the air with a scent of evil. Some time ago, I had a friend that used four letter curse words in all conversations we had. The f-bomb and the mother bombs were his way of emphasizing his feelings of acceptance about something or his disapproval about something. It was an earful and I was very uncomfortable when I was with him.

One day I told him how insulting and gross his use of these words offended me. But more than that, it was a reflection of his heart. He asks me, 'what do you mean, where my heart is?' I could not remember the bible passage that addresses bad language, but I recalled it went something like, 'the things that come out of the mouth, defile a person'. Later on I found the bible passage as Matthew 15:11 (not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."



What is the message being sent by a parent or friend or co-worker who use G-D or the f-bomb and mother-bomb in their every day life? The message is that it is acceptable to speak like this. Kids pick it up and tell other kids. Then there is Hollywood. Take the Hollywood films that are being produced. Few are produced without either nude scenes or filthy words pouring out of the mouths of the actors. It is sending a message that it's okay. But it is not.

I recently attended an event to raise money for foster children. The event was being hosted by a comedian, which I will not name at this time. The comedian was himself a foster child and wanted to help other foster children by raising money

through his events for their benefit. Attending were about 200 people and the representatives of Foster Care in the city in which the event took place.



Before the comedian came on stage, a woman who was the Emcee came out and let go of f-bombs and mother f-bombs in jokes and sarcasms that would make anyone blush.

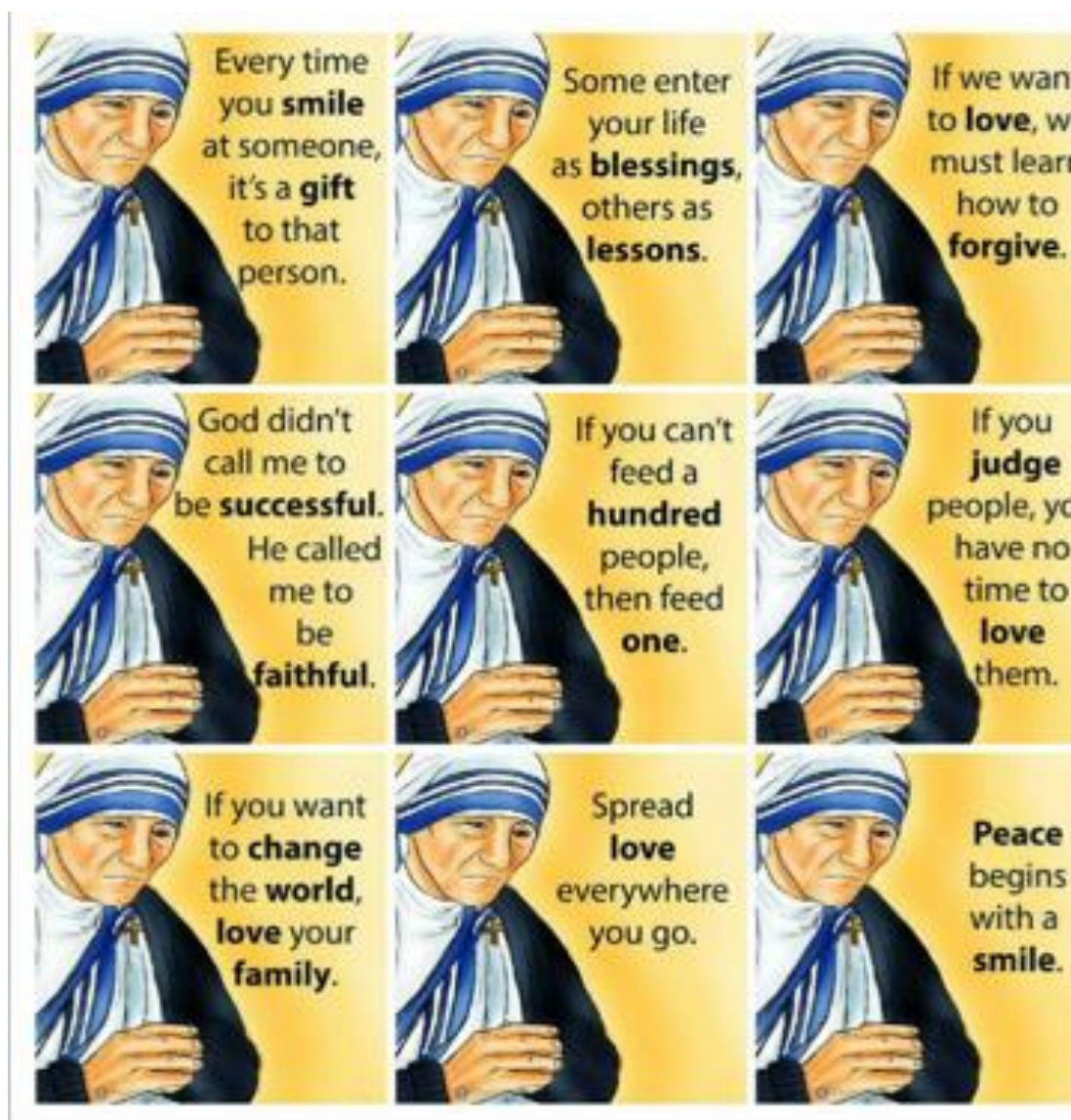
The Emcee was a half-sister to the comedian and she used them in such a way, that the audience appeared to approve her use of foul language by their laughter and delighted in the messages that were being given in this manner. I could not see the ladies who were representing Foster Care, but they must have been shocked.

After the onslaught of foul language, the comedian came out and put on a decent performance. They raised a few thousand dollars and had the Foster Care people come up to accept the funds raised.

The Emcee and the comedian called the Foster Care people up to the stage. You could see on the faces of these ladies that their smiles had been removed. They were very much embarrassed. They thanked the people for their donations and left the stage quickly. When it becomes okay to mock others, or tell horrible jokes about people, and use these types of filthy words with audience approval....then our moral compasses have shifted to allow such behavior. Not a good sign of things to come.



I recommend each of us to take a stance against this issue. If you have friend, family or co-workers who use these types of words, then either talk to them or pray for them or both. Arguments can get out of hand sometimes and curse words are thrown out without realizing it. Children in hearing range will not be spared from the onslaught. The rage and words used, will be in their mind. They learn by seeing & hearing.



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Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

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