

# Apologetics



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...  
The entrance of Your words gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

## What is Universalism?

# Apologetics

Apologetics (from Greek *πολογία*, "speaking in defense") is the religious discipline of defending religious doctrines through systematic argumentation and discourse.

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**These are the areas we will cover to help you understand our beliefs regarding Universalism**

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# What is Universalism?

Universalism is a doctrine that teaches that all people are saved and that there are many paths to God. You just need to find a religion or spiritual path that “works” for you. Many universalists consider themselves to be Christian. However, the Bible tells us to be like the Bereans and check all things. Not all churches that have crosses on them are Christian and adhere to the sound Word of God. Other names for this doctrine are called universal restoration, universal reconciliation and universal salvation.

If Universalism is true and everyone is saved and going to heaven, then what is the point of Jesus dying that horrible death of crucifixion on the cross? What is the point of the good news of the gospel? What is the point of salvation? Why would any of this be offered?

## Is Hell Real in Universalism?

Universalists do not believe in a literal hell. They say that God is a good and loving God and would not condemn anyone to eternal torment in hell. They focus only on God’s love but completely leave out sin, judgment, holiness, wrath and obedience. This doctrine is extremely popular today as it lets an individual live exactly the way they want to live because they believe there is no consequence of hell for their bad behavior. People caught up in Universalism are “me, myself and I “focused but don’t realize it. They often compare themselves to other people, making themselves easily appear better. This way of thinking is extremely dangerous. It gives people a false security.

They believe you have to have good self-esteem and self-love. They are usually very positive people on the outside. This is just what Satan wants them to believe. If Satan can convince a person that he doesn’t really exist, that person is deceived and has fallen for the trap. This tactic is not new. The Bible tells us in *Genesis 3:4*, “*Then the serpent said to the woman, “you will not surely die.” For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like god, knowing good and evil.*” Universalists make this same mistake that Eve made, way back in the garden.

## What Do Universalists Say About Sin?

They believe everyone is saved and inherently good and that they are like gods themselves, looking inward to themselves for all decisions. This is also extremely dangerous. Let's look at what the Bible has to say about these topics.

*“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected the law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay”, says the Lord. And again, The Lord will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10: 26-31)*

*The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10)*

*“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”. (Revelation 21:8)*

These quotes from the Bible are serious warnings to people that hell is a very real place. Jesus talked more about hell than heaven so we would be alerted not to go there. **We are not to promote ourselves, but die to self and exalt our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for saving us out of hell!** (Ephesians 4: 22-23). Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross to keep us out of hell, because He loves us!

Universalists also do not believe Jesus is God or that he is the only way to salvation. The Bible tells us in *1 John 4:1-3* “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

# Universalism Taught in Universities and Public School

The public-school system is allowing professors and teachers to promote tolerance and the belief that there are many roads to find God.



These professors and teachers use the name Jesus, but say he was just a good teacher or Galilean prophet. These teachers are telling children that Buddhism, Hinduism, Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, and Muslims etc. all have the same God, which is **NOT** true. These religions have a different Jesus, a different gospel. These religions all use partial truths and parts of the Bible to make people believe it is biblical. If anything is only partially right, it is considered completely wrong by God. Many of them also teach that God is in everyone and in everything which is pantheism and also **NOT** biblical. God is separate from His creation. The Holy Spirit only is living in genuine believers (*Titus 3:5 & Ephesians 1:7*). A number of teachers in the public-school system don't believe Satan or demons are real either. This all sounds really good on the outside. It appears to please everyone, not offend anyone and everybody can have a kumbaya moment! We all need to wake up and realize that Satan will deceive people by appearing as an angel. *2 Corinthians 11: 14* says, "... For Satan himself transforms into an angel of light." Satan will appear under the umbrella of love and unity to fool many people. This is so sad. It is vitally important that we test everything by the Word of God to make sure that it is true because our whole eternity depends on it! Eternity is too long to be wrong.

## Are You in a Church That Teaches About Sin and Repentance?

If you are in a church that never talks about the new birth, sin and repentance and you have never been under conviction about anything, **run**, you are in a false church. You should be cautious of a church that makes you feel good about yourself and comfortable with anything that you are doing. The Bible tells us that none of us are good, no not one (*Roman 3: 10*). When a person comes to terms with how sinful they truly have been, and they realize they can't save themselves, and they turn to God ... it is at that moment when they experience the true grace of God and His forgiveness! It will be such a relief to actually **know** that you have been forgiven and that your name has been written in the lamb's book of life!

# Using Genesis 1 Out of Context

Another teaching of universalism is that they stick with *Genesis chapter 1* in stating that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, therefore, we are like God. They take this out of context. They teach that every person can reach “Christ Conciseness” or their “Higher Self or True Self” which they say is god like. This will make you “at one” with God. This is their atonement... at – one - ment. These teachings are not in the Bible. They teach that the fall of man in *Genesis chapter 3* is a myth. Anytime a church uses scripture and out of context to make it fit their belief is a “red flag” warning of deception. The Bible is 100 percent true...all 66 books! One last thing to consider is the somber warning in *Revelation 22: 18-19* that says “*For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone add to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*”

Here we clearly see that adding or taking way from God’s word has severe consequences. To do so, or follow those who do is extremely dangerous.

## Will We All Go to Heaven?

One thing the Bible is totally clear on is that not everyone will make it to heaven. Unfortunately, most rebel and don’t want to accept the free gift of salvation because they think they won’t have any more fun. This thought is far from the truth. Once a person has accepted Jesus and is saved they will have incredible peace. You will still have fun. Sometimes the Christian walk is hard, but knowing our salvation is secure gives us peace and joy within. We have been set free! You will be thanking God for what he has done for you!! There are no words to explain the feeling of having all of your sins forgiven! Do you have this peace that only Jesus can bring?

The reality that debunks universalism is found in *Mathew 7: 13-14* where Jesus Himself says, “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that lead to destruction and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which lead to life, and there are few who find it.*”

# The Narrow or Broad Path?

Now is the time to ask yourself the difficult question.... Which road are you on? The broad path that leads to destruction that the world is on or the narrow way that leads to everlasting life in heaven?

Satan is the great deceiver. *2 Corinthians 13: 5-7* “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.”

If you are not sure, it is better to examine yourself now while you have the chance and **make sure** that you haven't been deceived.

*1 Corinthians 6:9-10* warns, “do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

All of us used to do many of the things listed above. When you are truly saved, God will transform your life and take away the desires of the world. This is evidence that you are born again!! A mark of a genuine believer is also separation from the world.

Another good reason to examine ourselves now and make sure we have the biblical Jesus is by what Jesus Himself says in *Mathew 7: 21-23*, “Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name and done many wonders in Your name. And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

He also has a strong warning in *Mathew 24: 5-13* which says, “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ”, and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

As you can see from the above warnings, salvation is not a game. Salvation cannot be found in the prosperity gospel, universalism or religion. Salvation is **only** through the Lord Jesus Christ and a relationship with Him! It is to be taken very seriously.

## Choose Life

If you haven't made your choice yet, don't put it off any longer. Remember, there is no sin that God cannot forgive! If you say, “no” and reject the free gift of salvation than know that God does not force Himself on anybody. He will let you live for yourself, but, be clear that if you reject Jesus then hell will become your reality for eternity when you die. After death, it is too late to change your mind. There is no party in hell, only continuous suffering. Make the most important decision in your life today and choose life!!

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*





## On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

Calvary Old Path of Cypress

5202 Lincoln Ave.

Cypress, CA. 90630

714 236-1288

Email: [discern@oldpath.net](mailto:discern@oldpath.net) [www.oldpath.net](http://www.oldpath.net)

These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.