

Student's Name

Instructor's Name

Institution's Name

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### Jesus of Nazareth and Siddhartha Gautama

As part of reviewing the nature of Buddhism, it is vital to clarify the differences and the similarities between Christ and Buddha. Siddhartha Gautama is the founder of Buddhism while Jesus Christ is the founder of Christianity. In Christianity, Jesus the son to Mary was born in Nazareth during the onset of the Christian era. Buddha (Siddhārtha Gautama) emphasized that he was human and that there exists no divine, benevolent God. According to him, the root of all sufferings is desire and it should be avoided at all costs. He was born 500 years in Nepal before Jesus Christ. On the other hand, Jesus is regarded as a healer and teacher, hence the name Galilean Jewish Rabbi (Nigosian 10). He was born in Bethlehem, and Christians believe that he was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. The career of Jesus of Nazareth and Siddhartha Gautama seemed to run along similar paths. The essay compares and contrasts these two important founders in later developing these work religions.

The differences between Siddhārtha Gautama and Jesus of Nazareth are more pronounced between the terms 'Buddha' and 'Christ. For example, the title 'Christ' is used in Christianity and it is only applied to the Jesus of Nazareth. Conversely, in Buddhism, the term 'Buddha' can be and/or is used by another person other than Siddhārtha Gautama, provided that that person acquires enlightenment of the Dharma (Nigosian 10). Therefore, in Christianity there is only a single Christ while in Buddhism there can be many Buddha. It is worth noting that the 'Buddha' is used to refer to a person who awakens to the Dharma, whilst, Jesus in Christianity is used to refer to Christ, who present the incarnation of God in the

World, in terms of his historical existence. Jesus is the final revelation whereas, Buddha is not. In Buddhism, by contrast, Gautama is not the only person who is Enlightened as there are many of them. According to the Biblical teachings Jesus resurrected from the dead, while this is not claimed in the case of Buddhism. The implication here is that Christianity seems to be more superior to Buddhism.

A closer comparison of Christianity and Buddhist can be used to show the similarities between Christ and Buddha. For example, Both Gautama and Christ identified themselves with God the father and the Dharma. In other words, the two emphasize on Dharma and God, who is the primary origins. Like the religion of Christianity, Buddhism is traced to one person, and that individual is Siddhartha Gautama. It is imperative to note that Buddhism may have influenced the early development of Christianity in terms of the death, the doctrines, the lives and births of the Buddha and Jesus (Nigosian 15). Jesus just like Siddhartha Gautama lived precious life, reached a high state and died after his mission on earth was accomplished. In both Buddha and Jesus, the two espoused altruism, emphasized on giving unto others for them to be more blessed. They preached on love and urged their followers to be good to others and not to judge their friends or neighbors (Nigosian 20). Buddha taught his followers to consider others while Jesus emphasized people to love their neighbors the same way they loved themselves.

In conclusion, Jesus of Nazareth and Siddhartha Gautama share some differences and similarities. For instance, in Christianity there is only a single Christ while in Buddhism there can be many Buddha. In regard to similarities, the teachings of the Buddha and Jesus revolve around love, enlightening, and Dharma and God who are the major 'references of their teachings

Work Cited

Nigosian, S Alexander. *World Religions: A Historical Approach*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008. Print.