

BUDDHISM & karma ...

- Karma is the law of moral causation. What is the cause of the inequality that exists among mankind? Either this inequality of mankind has a cause, or it is purely accidental. No sensible person would think of attributing this unevenness, this inequality, and this diversity to blind chance or pure accident.
- **In this world nothing happens to a person that he does not for some reason or other deserve.** Usually, men of ordinary intellect cannot comprehend the actual reason or reasons. The definite invisible cause or causes of the visible effect is not necessarily confined to the present life, they may be traced to a proximate or remote past birth.
- According to Buddhism, this inequality is due not only to heredity, environment, "nature and nurture", but also to Karma. In other words, it is the result of our own past actions and our own present doings. We ourselves are responsible for our own happiness and misery. **We create our own Heaven. We create our own Hell. We are the architects of our own fate.**
- [<http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/karma.htm>]

HINDUISM & karma ...

- The law of karma is a simple and straightforward concept according to which beings, not just men, are rewarded or punished according to their own actions and intentions. **Thus good actions and intentions reap good rewards and bad actions and intentions result in suffering and pain.** With some minor variations this concept is common to Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. In Islam we find some echoes of it in such declarations of Quran as "Whoever does a good deed he shall be repaid ten fold and whoever does evil, he shall be repaid with evil."
- [http://www.hinduwebsite.com/hinduism/h_karma.asp]

WORKS

SALVATION:

- ... is the **syncretism** of the natural mind and the gospel of God.
- "It just makes sense!"
- "Ask the Buddhists and the Hindus."
- And the Muslims.

KARMA:

- "She got what was coming to her!"
- "What goes around comes around!"

THINK HUMANISM & the golden rule ...

- Humanists try to embrace the moral principle known as the 'Golden Rule', **otherwise known as the ethic of reciprocity**, which means we believe that people should aim to treat each other as they would like to be treated themselves—with tolerance, consideration and compassion.
- Humanists like the Golden Rule **because of its universality, because it is derived from human feelings and experience** and because it requires people to think about others and try to imagine how they might think and feel.
- [<http://www.thinkhumanism.com/the-golden-rule.html>]

SYNCRETISM ...

- **Syncretism**, in this case, is the **mixing of Christianity with something else such that they become a different gospel.** Syncretism can take place with a positive-thinking gospel, a nationalist emphasis, or emerging culture. Syncretism happens more than we might know.
- **When anything is added to the message of the gospel, the uniqueness and sufficiency of Christ is compromised and another gospel can be created that is, well, actually not the gospel.** In this, obscurantism and syncretism are closely related, each leading to the creation of a false gospel.
- To be clear, I am not saying all Boomer or seeker churches are this way, and I am not trying to paint the movement with a broad brush. But there is a contingency of churches that have emphasized trying harder and being a better person over the gospel of grace. **"Living a good life as a good person," particularly under your own power, is not the gospel Jesus announced.**
- It is actually quite the **opposite**, and it has created a gospel that **dilutes** dependency on Christ and **denies** His lordship. **It is syncretistic.**
- <http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/june/avoiding-pitfall-of-syncretism.html>

GOSPEL:

- ... a **different gospel**—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and **want to distort the gospel of Christ.**

(Galatians 1:6b-7 ESV)

SYNCRETISM:

- **Reconciliation** or **fusion** of differing systems of belief, as in philosophy or religion.
- The **combination** of different forms of belief or practice.