

# Examining Taoism

Christian Faith vs. Taoism

(John 1:1-5)

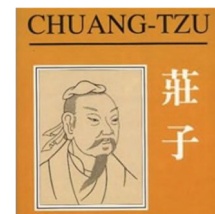


## Taoism (Daoism) 道教

- Originated in China
- Originated by Lao Tzu 老子 (legendary founder) (~600 BC)
- Spread by Chuang Tzu 莊子 (~400 BC)
- Literature — Tao Te Ching 道德經, 5000 characters
- Two types of Taoism
  - *Philosophical Taoism*
    - No personal Creator-God;
    - live life in harmony with the universe
  - *Religious Taoism*
    - Turned Taoism into a polytheistic folk religion



Lao Tzu



## Taoism's Primary Teachings

- Tao (Dao) 道
  - “The universe springs from Tao, and the Tao impersonally guides things on their way. The Tao itself is not God.”
  - “We believe in the formless and eternal Tao, and we recognize all personified deities as being mere human constructs. We reject hatred, intolerance, and unnecessary violence, and embrace harmony, love and learning, as we are taught by Nature. We place our trust and our lives in the Tao, that we may live in peace and balance with the Universe, both in this mortal life and beyond.”

## Taoism's Primary Teachings

- Tao (Dao) 道
- Yin Yang 陰陽 & Tai Chi 太極
  - Nature is full of conflict between Yang and Yin, but as the diagram shows, they perfectly balance one another and invade each other's hemisphere.
  - e.g. male-female, good-evil, positive-negative, sun-moon, active-passive, light-darkness, heaven-earth



## Taoism's Primary Teachings

- Tao (Dao) 道
- Yin Yang 陰陽 & Tai Chi 太極
- Wu Wei 無為 — the doing of non-doing  
It is a spiritual request to leave things alone and let nature run its course.



## Taoism's Primary Teachings

- Tao (Dao) 道
- Yin Yang 陰陽 & Tai Chi 太極
- Wu Wei 無為 — the doing of non-doing
- Chi Qong 氣功
- Chinese herbal medicine & accupuncture
- Feng Shui 風水
- No worship of gods, but believe in the power and teaching of Tao religiously — follow Tao, live for Tao, die for Tao, join with Tao



## Practices of Religious Taoism

- Spirits, demons, magics, occultism
- Writing & burning of spells — for health & protection
- The Eight Immortals/Deities 八仙
- The Fox Deity 狐仙



The Eight Immortals

## Practices of Religious Taoism

The Chinese turned Taoism into a folk religion and used it to control the good and evil spirits. It became a religion of magic, superstition, witchcraft, and occultism, involving the worship of many gods, the fear of evil spirits, and demonic possession. Innumerable Taoist temples and shrines appeared because of the efforts to placate the evil spirits of the dead and to worship all kinds of deities. Even today Taoist priests brew magical potions and are paid to drive away evil spirits.

[Kenneth Boa, *Cults, World Religions, and the Occult*, 59]

How is the Christian faith distinct from Taoism?

**\*We believe in the one and only personal God, Jesus Christ,  
who loves us and saves us.**

John 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

## 1. We believe in a personal God who is Jesus Christ (Jn 1:1-2)

vs. Taoism's atheistic religion

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**2. Jesus Christ created all things (1:3)**

vs. Taoism's glorifying the impersonal nature as the creator

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2. Jesus Christ created all things (1:3)  
vs. Taoism's glorifying the impersonal nature as the creator
- 3. Jesus Christ gives us life for a relationship with God (1:4-5)**  
vs. Taoism's goal of becoming nothing & one with the universe, i.e. from personal to impersonal

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vs. Taoism's goal of becoming nothing & one with the universe, i.e. from personal to impersonal
- 4. Jesus Christ saves us from darkness into light (1:5)**  
vs. Taoism's dark world of spirits & magics

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Do not try, don't even be curious about, practicing Taoism!  
Treasure your faith and salvation in Christ.  
Walk with God in His light and build a solid relationship with Him.