

# Christianity, God, Taoism, and *Dao*

(An abstract)

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Christianity and Taoism resemble each other in their historical development. They emerged in history almost simultaneously in the middle of the first century. Three hundred years later, their epoch-making figures, Augustine and Ge Hong, made their respective appearances. Then, after about eight to ten more centuries, both of these religions went through a reformation: Protestantism was formed consequently as a branch in Christianity, while *Quanzhen Dao* emerged in Taoism.

There are also notable differences between the two religions. Christianity is a world religion, while Taoism is an ethnic religion. Christianity is a monotheistic religion, believing in a personal God, whereas Taoism is a polytheistic religion, believing in the pantheist *Dao*. Christianity is a religion that talks about God's becoming flesh, by which man can know God but not become God, while Taoism is a religion that seeks for the flesh to become god.

There are points in common between the God of Christianity and the *Dao* of Taoism. Both are the highest deity in their religion. Both are formless, invisible, and omnipotent. Both are believed to have created the universe and human beings out of nothing. Both are indescribable,

and are usually portrayed in a negative way. Both are regarded as the path leading to God.

Dissimilarities between the Christian God and *Dao* may also be observed. The Christian God can be characterized as purposeful, but *Dao* is natural. God created man from dust, but *Dao* created man by giving birth to man. God is present in his creation after he created man and all things, but *Dao* is passive and leaves all things to their natural course. God is a person, whereas *Dao* is not .

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