



Exploring the Foundations of Hinduism

Discussion Questions for Christian Business Leaders Engaging with Hindus

Part 1: Understanding Hinduism's History and Foundations

1. How does learning about the historical origins of the term Hindu change the way Christians might approach conversations with Hindu colleagues?
2. Hinduism is often described as a "fellowship of faiths" rather than a single structured religion. How does this affect the way Christians should engage in discussions about faith?
3. Many Hindus call their faith Sanatana Dharma (Eternal Religion) rather than Hinduism. How might recognizing this influence a Christian's approach to interfaith conversations?
4. In Hindu culture, mystery and openness are valued in spiritual matters. How can Christians effectively share the certainty of Christ while respecting this worldview?
5. What are some misconceptions Christians might have about Hindu beliefs and practices, and how can they be corrected?

Part 2: Hindu Philosophy and Theology – Understanding Karma, Rebirth, and Suffering

1. Many Hindus believe that suffering is a result of past karma and see it as something to be endured. How can Christians share Christ's compassion and promise of healing in a way that is relevant to this belief?
2. Hinduism emphasizes detachment from suffering, while Christianity teaches that God is personally involved in human pain. How can this difference be a starting point for sharing the Gospel?
3. Since Hindus do not have a sense of urgency about life after death due to the belief in rebirth, how can Christians introduce the urgency of responding to Jesus?
4. What are some thoughtful ways Christians can explain being born again in Christ to a Hindu who believes in physical rebirth?
5. How can Christians avoid a theological debate and instead engage in a relational and meaningful conversation about Jesus' ability to free people from the burden of karma?

Part 3: The Hindu Search for Moksha and How Jesus Fulfills It

1. Hindus seek Moksha (liberation from rebirth), while Christians seek Salvation in Christ. What are the key differences between these concepts, and how can they be a starting point for Gospel conversations?
2. Hinduism teaches that karma determines destiny—yet Jesus offers grace and assurance. How can Christians explain this in a way that resonates with a Hindu worldview?
3. Many Hindu traditions believe in sacrifices (Yagna) to cleanse karma. How can Christians use this concept to share about Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice on the cross?
4. Rituals like washing in the Ganges River are meant to cleanse sins. How does Jesus' spiritual cleansing provide a deeper, lasting purification, and how can this be shared with Hindu friends?
5. How can Christian business leaders create a welcoming and respectful environment where Hindu colleagues feel comfortable discussing faith without feeling pressured?

Application & Reflection Questions

1. What are some practical ways Christians in the workplace can build bridges of trust before engaging in faith discussions with Hindu colleagues?
2. Have you ever had a conversation about faith with a Hindu friend or colleague? What went well, and what challenges did you face?
3. How can Christian business leaders live out their faith authentically in a way that draws Hindus to ask questions about Jesus?
4. What steps can Christians take to better understand and respect Hindu culture while still remaining faithful to the Gospel message?
5. After this discussion, what is one action step you feel led to take in engaging with Hindu colleagues or friends more effectively?



About the Speaker

Rahil Patel is an Adjunct Speaker and tutor at OCCA The Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. His work evolves around Hinduism (a group of multiple religions) and how the Christian faith can build bridges into that eastern worldview and offer the beauty of the Gospels.

Prior to his work for the Christian faith, Rahil was a Hindu monk for 20 years with one of the world's most influential Hindu traditions and was Head of Europe and Russia before he had a powerful encounter with Jesus Christ.

Rahil's biography, *Found by Love*, is published in 5 different languages.



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