

COMPARISON OF TEACHINGS

Jan, 2009

THE SHACK

UNIVERSAL

THE BIBLE

RECONCILIATION

“I am love” (101); God cannot act apart from love (102); love is holy (107)

“There is one God whose nature is love” (creeds of 1803, 1899)

God is love (1 Jn. 4:9, 16), light (1 Jn. 1:5), holy (3:25), righteous, (2 Thes. 1:6-7)

God does not punish sin; he “cures” it; sin is its own punishment (120)

There is no eternal punishment for sin. The fires of hell are curative and purgatorial.

“Righteous judgment of God” (Rom. 1:32); “judgment of God is against” sin (2:2,3,5-6,9); God will judge secrets by Jesus Christ (v.16; 3:6; etc.)

God “redeems” the final outcome (127)

There is no everlasting hell; all repent and go to heaven;

There are two ways, one leading to everlasting punishment, the other to everlasting life (Matt. 7:13ff.;25:46; Luke 16:19ff; Jn. 3:16-19)

“Judgment is not about destruction, but about setting things right” (169).

There is no final judgment; but “a setting of all things right” (*apokatastasis*, Origen, 3rd cent.= 1st prominent Christian universalist)

“Jesus will take vengeance . . . and punish with everlasting destruction” (2 Thes. 1:8-9)

<p>There is no mention of the Devil in the description of the Fall (134-137), of his present work, or future destiny</p>	<p>There is no Devil confirmed in his evil choice but he will repent and go from hell to heaven; the creeds never mention the Devil</p>	<p>The Devil was very real to Jesus as the one who sins from the beginning, who tempted him, is the god of this world, for whom hell was prepared (Matt. 4:1ff.; 2 Cor. 4:4; 25:41;)</p>
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<p>At the cross “mercy triumphs over <u>justice</u> because of the cross”; justice was not exercised (164-165); justice flows from love</p>	<p>Justice is “born of love and limited by love” (decree of 1878); all of God’s perfections are modifications of God’s love (decree of 1790)</p>	<p>The death of Christ enabled God to be just (Rom. 3:25); “judgment is without mercy to the one who shows no mercy (he shows partiality); mercy triumphs over <u>judgment</u>” (Jam. 2:13)</p>
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<p>Jesus is a companion in a “circle of relationship” devoid of authority, power, prominence of anyone; “filling roles is the opposite of relationships” (167)</p>	<p>Jesus is progressively humanized</p>	<p>To be a Christian is to confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Rom. 10:9-10; Col. 2:6; etc.) and “head of the church” (Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16).</p>
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<p>The whole Trinity became incarnate and was crucified (99)</p>	<p>UR progressively blurs the distinctions within the Trinity (creeds of 1878, 1899)</p>	<p>The Father sent the Son (1 Jn. 4:9-10, 14) to be the Savior; the</p>
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Father “smote him,” “laid on him our iniquity,” “was pleased to bruise him” (Isa. 53:4-10)

God is “reconciled to the whole world” even to those who do not believe (192)

None of the creeds (1790, 1803, 1899, 1935) ever mentions “faith” or believing as the means of salvation

People “are saved by grace through faith”; “without faith it impossible to please God” (Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 11:6; 3:12; Rom. 10:9-10)

One must believe in the love of God (142)

No belief or faith is called for

One must believe in Christ (Jn. 3:16-19); the “work of God” is “to believe in Christ” (Jn. 6:28-29)

Love does not force its will; “relationships are marked by submission ” (145).

God’s will to save all cannot be thwarted; all will choose to respond

“Whosoever will shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13; cf. John 3:16ff.); to love is to obey commands (repeatedly in Jn. 13-17; 1 Jn. 2; esp. 3:23-24).

<p>“love burns away every vestige of corruption” (227)</p>	<p>The fires of hell are corrective, disciplinary, purgatorial, not punitive</p>	<p>Hell is punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41; Luke 16:24-25, 28)</p>
<p>All people are children of God and loved equally by him (155-156).</p>	<p>All are God’s children and loved by him; there is the “universal Fatherhood of God” (creed of 1899)</p>	<p>While all are the “offspring of God” only those who believe in Christ are forgiven and receive eternal life (Acts 17:22-34; Jn. 1:12; 3:16ff; 11:25; cf. 1 John 5:11-12).</p>
<p>There will be a new revolution of “love and kindness” when all will confess Jesus is Lord (248).</p>	<p>In the end all in hell repent and go to heaven, and love finally triumphs over all; all will be restored to holiness and happiness (creeds of 1790, 1803)</p>	<p>The enemies of Christ become his conquered footstool (Ps. 110: 1; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Heb. 1:3, 13; Rev. chs. 19-22); God the Judge is able to “save and destroy” (Jam. 4:12; cf. 2 Thes. 1:5ff.). The day of the Lord is judgment (1 Thes. 5).</p>
<p>Institutions are diabolical schemes; Jesus “never has, never will” create institutions including the church, government, marriage (178)</p>	<p>UR opposes evangelical churches and revival movements</p>	<p>Jesus began the church (Matt. 16:18; 18:15-17) & founded it on the apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20; 4:11-16). There are regulations (1 Cor. 11-14), and officers and ordinances (1 Tim.</p>

3; Tit. 1; 1 Cor. 11-14; 1 Pet.

5:1ff.). Christians are to

assemble regularly (Heb.10:25).
