

On Cultural Differences between Chinese and Western Religious Customs

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Abstract

Since the ancient times, religions have played an important role in the development of human beings' civilization. Buddhism and Christianity, two largest denominations in the world, come into being as two different religions, due to the differences in geographical environment and historical background. The religion is the essence of human thought and the bailment of the human soul. Therefore, it was often used as a tool of ruling people in the early period by eastern and western emperor. With the progress of civilization and the development of society, religions gradually free from the theology, becoming people's spiritual home. Nowadays, as a matter of fact, Chinese and western religions served as an intriguing window into their cultural differences. Discussing the religious culture will have a good effect on the fusion of culture. Therefore, the article is going to analyze cultural differences of religious customs between China and western countries. This article aims at exploring the differences of the religious culture between Chinese and western customs so as to find out the culture differences lying behind. The research will make the Chinese and the western people understand each other's culture and values well, which can have reference value and significance to English learners and students.

Keywords

Culture; Buddhism; Christianity; religious customs.

1. Introduction

Since the ancient times, religions have played an important role in the development of human beings' civilization. Buddhism and Christianity, the two largest denominations in the world, come into being as two different religions, due to the differences in geographical environment and historical background. The religion is the essence of human thought and the bailment of the human soul. With the progress of civilization and the development of society, religions gradually free from the theology, becoming people's spiritual home. As a matter of fact, Chinese and western religions serve as an intriguing window into their cultural differences.

In order to have a more comprehensive outlook about the issues I have examined, I will first do a state-of-the-art type of study, and then see what has happened in this area over the past 30 or more years.

A History of the Christian Church [9], which is a masterwork of Christian in historical period and a standard teaching materials in western countries for many years. Although the author is a theologian, he is loyal to historians, and has brilliant ideation and clearly orderliness. Based on plentiful and detailed materials, the author explains the church history in a whole viewpoint from the first century to the twentieth.

Christianity and Chinese Religions, which notes Christianity in the view of Chinese religions. The book based on history, phenomenology, and dynamics, aims to find the religion science. The author hopes that the book can be regarded as a window to broaden the view of people who do not know much about Chinese religions and culture. And the book notes that the religion is one of the most important factors of the history of China.

Beyond Culture, which builds upon the foundation that communication constitutes the core of culture. Throughout the book, Hall tries to hold a metaphorical mirror in front of the reader as a way to help one see the awesome and vicious grip of culture on all of us. The way out of man-made mess is to recognize and accept what Hall terms “unconscious culture”. Once people see their own cultures, both in manifest and latent forms, people can free themselves from captivity by going beyond culture and then they can accept and understand other people. Overall, Hall does an effective job of describing and elucidating the many influences and aspects of culture – “man’s medium”. His emphasis is on the nonverbal, unstated realm of culture and he depicts how cultural aspects are actually formed or put together as opposed to basing his views simply on theories. As such, the book describes and sets forth what we must do and why. Throughout the book, Hall makes specific and generalized observations about different cultures.

A Book in Series of Traditional Chinese Architecture [10], which uses the pictures and words to show a series of the religious buildings for us. There are many temples in China which mostly are religious buildings. There are three parts in the chapter in which researches on a series of the religious buildings have been done. The first part is a series of Buddhist halls and towers, the second part is a series of religious building yards, and the last part is a series of religious buildings and classical gardens. The book offers us a great deal of information about religious buildings, especially the pictures of Buddhist halls.

“On Chinese and Western Culture Reflected by Traditional Festivals” in *Journal of Wuhan Institute of Technology* [2] which concludes that differences between Chinese and Western festival cultures can be summarized by comparing the origin of festivals, festival customs, food habits etc. Firstly, Chinese traditional festivals are based on pantheism while western traditional festivals are religion based. Secondly, Chinese festivals emphasize collectivism spirit while western traditional festivals focus on the value of individualism. Thirdly, Chinese and Western festivals have different food habits and food culture.

Inheritance and Variation of Christianity [5], which notes the strength of Christianity and encourages people to follow Jesus. The river of religion runs a long course from a remote source. The variation of Christian reveals that the nature of religion is the product of human activity. The Christians’ love for the life has a good effect on whole western countries. Christian civilization influences China deeply. So the religion becomes a bridge in inter-cultural communication.

The *Genesis of Bible* recorded that the Lord created people and everything. From the very beginning of the Bible, God created us differently, “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them”. The male is Adam and the female is Eve. Before they ate the apple, Adam and Eve did not know that they were naked. But after they ate the apple, they were shamed and covered their bodies with leaves. Most Christians believe that all people are conceived with original sin (the sin inherited from Adam and Eve).

In *Dhammacakka Ppavathana Sutta* that notes The Fourfold Noble Truth, which is the Truth of Suffering, the Truth of the Cause of Suffering, the Truth of the Cessation of Suffering, and the Truth of the Noble Path to the Cessation of the cause of Suffering. This is the principle of Buddhism. In order to enter into a state where there is no desire and no suffering, one must follow certain path. The stages of this Noble Eightfold Path are: Right View, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Behaviour, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration.

In order to achieve the above research purposes more effectively, I would like to adopt a descriptive research method with exemplification in this article. When we talk about religions, we will think of Christian, Buddhism, Islam and so on. In China, Buddhism has a long history and people prefer to Buddhism than other religions. But in western countries, people believe Lord mostly. Indeed, with the social development and global cultural integration, people of the whole world recognize that religious customs also undergoes certain subtle changes. Buddhism was 2000 years old in China. Comparing with Christian, Buddhism had looked so deeply into the human mind in China. Also in western countries, Christian is more popular.

Religion is closely related to the human life. Those who criticize religion should have an accurate understanding of what it is they are criticizing. The cultural of religious customs will be colorful and valuable.

2. Differences on Doctrines of Buddhism and Christianity

For too long, religion has always been an important part of faith, and each religion has its own origin and disciplines. According to the origin and discipline, the doctrines can be found out.

2.1 Buddhism Doctrines and Its Cultural Connotations

The history of Buddhism goes back to what is now called Bodh Gaya, India, almost six centuries before Christianity, and it gradually became one of the oldest religions and still be practiced. Buddhism is one of the three major religions in the world, and also a crystallization of oriental ancient civilization and human wisdom. Buddhism was introduced into China since the first century BC, after nearly two thousand years of development, formed a Chinese Buddhist culture with Chinese characteristics. Buddhism spread in the territory of China today, including the entire contents of the world's three major languages of Buddhism. Meanwhile, Buddhism in China has a solid foundation and broad effects.

In *Dhammacakka Ppavathana Sutta* that notes The Fourfold Noble Truth, which is the Truth of Suffering, the Truth of the Cause of Suffering, the Truth of the Cessation of Suffering, and the Truth of the Noble Path to the Cessation of the cause of Suffering. This is the basic principle of Buddhism. The Buddha says that the world is filled with suffering, and each of us has our own suffering. Meanwhile, the Buddha also points out that the cause of suffering are various, including ignorance, attachment, and aversion(also called lust, hatred, and delusion), which named the Three Poisons. These three poisons are said to be the root of all of the other kleshas, too. The Buddha identifies the Three Fold Training as training in: higher virtue, higher mind, and higher wisdom. According to Theravada canonical texts, going after such training leads to the abandonment of lust, hatred and delusion. In order to reach Nibbana, one is totally accomplished in the training. In several canonical discourses, a more "gradual" instruction is provided to receptive layman. This latter instruction culminates in the teaching of the Four Noble Truth which itself concludes with the Noble Eightfold Path, the constituents of which can be mapped to the three fold training(Thera Nārada & Kassapa Bhikkhu, 2008).

Everything has norms or standards. In order to remove kleshas, people should keep rules all the time. In *Vinaya* the Buddha notes that killing, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying, and drinking are forbidden. As far as Buddha is concerned, killing, stealing, sexual misconduct and lying are never skillful.

The Four Noble Truth is the basic doctrine of Buddhism which all the sects must be practiced. With the purpose of letting people understand what the real life is, the Buddha stresses the Four Noble Truth. It helps us get rid of suffering and obtain enlightenment. The Ethics of Buddhism is the religion preached by its precepts, ten good deeds, four camera, six degrees. And the Noble Eightfold Path has a wealth of ethical ideas such as color. Be it in the past, present, or future, Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha are eternal, and we called this Triple Gems.

Buddhism has a closely connection with human life. Zen is one important sect of 8 sects in Chinese Buddhism. Viewed from Zen and human life, Live Zen is often mentioned by master. The aim of the Live Zen is conscious life and dedicated life. As a matter of fact, Zen Live is a modern interpretation of the Mahayana Buddhism in wisdom and compassion. Consciousness is the whole process of Buddhist practice, and the final goal of the practice. Wisdom and compassion are both important in Mahayana. Whether it is consciousness or compassion, conscious life or dedicated life, its starting point is everything for human beings. As a central idea of Buddhism, or a core idea, life is without beginning and ending. Finally, even though Buddhism is a religion, it still create great culture at every moment.

2.2 Christianity Doctrines and Its Cultural Connotations

The origin of Christianity goes back to Roman Judea in early first century. The four Christian gospels date from around 70-90 AD, the Pauline Epistles having been written before them around 50-60 AD. By early second century, post apostolic Christian theology had taken shape, in the works of authors such as Irenaeus. Although Christianity is regarded as the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy as to the Messiah which dates back much further[7].

According to the *Genesis of Bible*, it is the Lord that created people and everything. In the very beginning of the Bible, God created us differently. The male is Adam and the female is Eve. Before they ate the apple, Adam and Eve did not know that they were naked. But after they ate the apple, they were shamed and covered their bodies with leaves. They are ancestors of human, and we are born to guilty, and pain for original sin. Most Christians believe that all of us are conceived with original sin (the sin inherited from Adam and Eve). The Bible describes sin not complying with the moral teachings of God.

The foundations of Christian theology are expressed with ecumenical creeds. The professions of faith state that Jesus was suffered, died, buried, and was resurrected from the dead, for going for the grant eternal life to those who believe in him and trust him for the remission of their sins. The creeds further maintain that Jesus bodily ascended into heaven, where he reigns with God the Father. Most Christian denominations teach that Jesus will return to judge everybody, living and dead, and to grant eternal life to his followers. He is considered as the model of a virtuous life and his ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection are often referred as the “gospel” meaning “good news”. The term gospel also refers to written accounts of Jesus’ life and teaching, four of which—the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—are considered canonical and included in Christian Bibles. Christianity traditionally thinks highly of four canonical gospels, which it considers to be a revelation from God and central to its belief system.

Christian views that Jesus are based on the teachings and beliefs outlined in the Canonical gospels, New Testament letters, and the Christian creeds. Christians consider Jesus the Christ and believe that through his death and resurrection, humans can be reconciled to God and make relationships with god and thereby are offered salvation and the promise of eternal life. The Ten Commandments, known as the Decalogue, are a series of biblical principles relating to ethics and worship, which play a basic role in Judaism and Christianity. They include instructions to worship only God and to keep the sabbath, and prohibitions against idolatry, blasphemy, murder, theft, dishonesty, and adultery. Different groups follow different traditions for interpreting and numbering them. And trinity is one of the doctrines of Christianity and defines God as three divine persons: the Father, the Son(Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. It means “one god in three persons”. Though the three are different, they are one “substance, essence or nature”. Apocalyptic is one of those political kinds of forces in early Christianity although it is certainly not the only one[4].

Original sin is one of the important teachings of Christianity, and also the important premise of ethical thought of Bible. In the Christianity, it seems that everyone will have the performance of the original sin, even a saint is inevitable, and it is not to mention ordinary people. The theory of original sin in Christian, through the form of myth, expressed a kind of idea about human nature, so it is a kind of theory of human nature, thus forming a moral judgment. From the cultural sense, it is expressed by form of myth that because Adam ate the wisdom fruit, aroused people’s spiritual world. And people separated from nature, human beings world fall into a series of conflict, ended the Eden where life forever. This is a necessary process of human development.

Original sin has a deep influence in western traditional culture. Based on original sin, western history has formed the redeem ethics, and people’s effort and mission are to save lives. The idea of original sin in Christianity is a culture of Guilty Sense. It is the key idea of western culture.

3. Differences on Festivals of Buddhism and Christianity

Our lives revolved around the religious holidays. Each religion has its own a unique religious holidays. In this chapter, the article will involve festivals, Buddhism's Ullambana and Christianity's Halloween. And then they are compared. By means of comparing these origins, activities and meanings, the paper will find the differences on festivals of Buddhism and Christianity.

3.1 Buddhism Festivals and Its Cultural Connotations

The Ullambana, also known as the Hungry Ghost Festival, or the Ghost Festival, is a traditional Chinese on the 15th day of the 7th lunar month. In China, the 7th month in the lunar calendar is named Ghost Month and the fifteenth day of this month is regarded as Ghost Day. In these days, ghosts and spirits come out from the lower realm and visit the living, while in Qingming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival, living descendants pay homage to their deceased ancestors[11].

Buddhists from China and Taoists have a same holiday, both held on 15th day of the 7th lunar month. Although the ceremonies originate with the canonical scriptures of Buddhism, many of them come from Chinese folk religion and other local folk traditions. This process of syncretism is not limited to China, for example, Ghost Festival is same as the Cambodian Pchum Ben festival in Theravada Buddhism. They both reflect the same assumptions about an annual opening of the gates of hell and have the same role of the Lord Yama King. In Tang dynasty of China, people celebrate the Buddhist festival Ullambana and Ghost Festival together.

The Buddhist origins of the festival can be dated back to a story, which originally came from India and later took on culturally Chinese color. In the *Ullambana Sutra*, the Buddha helps Mu Qianlian obtain liberation for his mother who had been reborn into a lower realm. The Buddha instructs him to make food offerings to the sangha on the 15th day of the 7th lunar month. The Buddha was very pleased that the number of monks who attained enlightenment during the period was high. This is recorded in the sages[12].

On that day people should go to clean the graves and light incense in memory of their ancestors, and the Buddhist will hold an Ullambana celebration. The monks will chanting for the dead. Saving them away from hell, and all of them may be happy. When darkness falls, people will float lanterns and set off fireworks to pacify the wandering spirits. Ullambana has a family-reunion element, as the Chinese will return to their ancestral homes to be reunited with relatives living and deceased. During the process of Buddhism, the religious rites include folklore which gradually formed various religious festivals. When holidays come, monastery and ordinary people will hold the commemorative activities. There are nationalization of the religious festivals, such as Buddha's Birthday, Ullambana, Fabao Festival and so on.

The date of Fabao Festival and Laba Festival is the same. Laba Festival is a traditional Chinese holiday, celebrated on the eighth day of the twelfth month of the lunar Chinese calendar. In China, it is customary on this day to eat Laba soup. Laba Festival had not been on a fixed day until the Southern and Northern dynasties, when it was influenced by Buddhism and got a fixed time on the eighth day of twelfth month, which was also the enlightenment day of the Buddha. Therefore, many customs of Laba Festival are related to Buddhism.

3.2 Christianity Festivals and Its Cultural Connotations

Comparing with the Ullambana festival, the western ghost festival, Halloween has its own characteristics and just like Christmas.

Halloween, also known as All Hallows' Eve, is a yearly celebration held on a number of countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows's Day. It initiates three days of Hallowmas, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints, martyrs, and all the faithful departed disciples. According to many academic scholars, All Hallows' Eve is a Christianized festival initially influenced by Celtic harvest festivals, with possible pagan roots, particularly the Gaelic Samhain. The word Halloween or Hallowe'en dates to about 1745 and of

Christian origin. The word “Halloween” means “hallowed evening” or “holy evening”. It comes from a Scottish term for All Hallows’ Eve.

The theme of Halloween is ghost, scary as well as death, magic and monster. The traditional color of the Halloween is black and orange. Nowadays, purple, green and black are more popular in Halloween. Development of artifacts and symbols associated with Halloween formed over time. Jack-o-lantern is traditionally carried by people on All Hallows’ Eve in order to frighten evil spirits. There is a popular Irish Christian folktale associated with the Jack-o-lantern, which in lore is said to represent a “soul who has been denied entry into both heaven and hell”: On route home after a night’s drinking, Jack encounters the Devil and tricks him into climbing a tree. A quick-thinking Jack etches the sign of the cross into the bark, thus trapping the Devil. Jack strikes a bargain that Satan can never claim his soul. After a life of sin, drink, and mendacity, Jack is refused entry to heaven when he dies. Keeping his promise, the Devil refuses to let Jack into hell and throws a live coal straight from the fires of hell at him. It was a cold night, so Jack places the coal in a hollowed out turnip to stop it from going out, since which time Jack and his lantern have been roaming looking for a place to rest.

On the Halloween, the children will take the Jack-o-lanterns, dress in all sort of strange clothes, and go door-to-door to collect candies. The children keep saying: trick or treat outdoors. If you refuse to give them candies, the kids will get angry and do something to punish you such as taking out the garbage in your home. Until you give them candies. Meanwhile, the festival song of Halloween is “This Is Halloween, Trick or Treat”, and “The Nightmare before Christmas This is Halloween”.

Today’s Halloween customs have been influenced by Christian dogma and practices derived from it. Halloween falls on the evening before the Christian holy days of All Hallows’ Day on 1st November and All Souls’ Day on 2nd November, thus giving the holiday on 31st October the full name of All Hallows’ Eve. The typical activity of Halloween is trick or treating. And other activities are costume parties and making a special image, decorating, carving pumpkins into Jack-o-lanterns, apple bobbing, telling scary stories, visiting haunted attractions, lighting bonfires, playing pranks, and watching horror films. On that day, people eating certain vegetarian foods for this vigil day developed, including the consumption of apples, colcannon, cider, potato pancakes, and soul cakes.

Thus, it can be seen that The Ullambana is different from Halloween in many fields. It reflects the difference between China and western countries in religious customs. The west has long been under the influence of religion, so traditional festivals are full of sacredness and divine of religion in general. In point view of western person, the individual is the basis of the combination of human society, and the individual value is put a high attention. However, the western society didn’t fall apart even with the individual standard. There is no doubt that the religion has played a powerful sustain an integration capability. So the traditional festivals, related to the religion ,is just the typical embodiment of this function.

4. Differences on Religious Buildings of Buddhism and Christianity

The buildings, as a physical form in the world, come to be a necessary of human survival and development. Religious buildings are a direct reaction of religious consciousness and religious psychology. Different religions have different styles. The following sections will make a discussion about Buddhism and Christian in their religious buildings.

4.1 Buddhism Buildings and Its Cultural Connotations

Since Buddhism was introduced to China, it has fused traditional Chinese culture. A Buddhist building is combined with Chinese situation. Depending on the economic conditions, temples are different. A Buddhist architecture includes the Buddhist temple, stupa and grottoes. In the early years, Chinese Buddhist buildings are influenced by India. In the temple, stupa is surrounded by the hall and shag, which is the center of the temple building. After Jin and Tang dynasty, the palace hall became the main Buddhist architecture and the stupa was moved out of the temple.

The first Chinese Buddhist temple made the house as a temple. In Tang dynasty, until Master Jian Zhen established a monastery in Chang’an City, the house serves as a temple and is prevalent. From

the beginning of the Northern Wei dynasty, the plane layout of temple was formed and start with the design of residential difference. From Western Han and Eastern Han, the three Kingdoms, twice Jin and Southern and Northern dynasties to Sui, Tang, Ming and Qing dynasties. The development of Chinese Buddhist buildings has two thousand years. From nothing to everything, from small to large, Buddhist architecture gradually influenced by Chinese culture.

The main buildings of the monastery are based on north-south centra axis. From north to south they are the gate to a monastery, Tianwang Hall, Daxiong Hall, Dhammasala, and depositary of Buddhist texts. A pagoda is a tiered tower built in the traditions originating in historic East Asia or with respect to those traditions and has multiple eaves which are common in Nepal, China, Japan, India, Korea, Vietnam, Burma and other parts of Asia. Pagodas were often located in or near viharas, and most of them serve for religion. This term may be related to other religious structures in some countries. In Vietnam and Cambodia, due to French translation, the English term pagoda is a more generic term referring to a place of worship, although it is not an accurate word to describe a Buddhist vihara. The modern pagoda evolves from the ancient Nepal stupa, a tomb-like structure, where sacred relics could be kept safe and venerated. The architectural structure of the stupa takes on many diverse forms and spreads across Asia.

Some notable pagodas, for example, Songyue Pagoda on Mount Song, Henan, China, built in 523; Palsangjeon, a five story pagoda at Beopjusa, Korea, built in 553; Miruksa Temple Pagoda at Iksan, Korea, built in the early 7th century; Xumi Pagoda at Zhengding, Hebei, China, built in 636; Daqin Pagoda in China, built in 640; Iron Pagoda of Kaifeng, built in 1049 AD, during the Song dynasty; Global Pagoda, the largest unsupported domed stone structure in the world.

There are plenty of architectures in ancient China, such as palaces, temples, houses, sacrifice, and so on. Each of them conveys unique meaning. Therefore, it is necessary to know the related background of all kinds of religious buildings, and the protection of them is becoming more important. The Buddhism has gone through many flourishes and declines in the history, so the architecture gradually fuses with the Chinese native culture. The Chinese Buddhism is unique and the architecture has become an important part of Chinese ancient architecture. As one of the three major religions in the world, the Buddhism has a great cultural connotation and thought essence and the architecture has its unique feature. Regardless of modern and ancient architecture, they can be traced to the same origin.

4.2 Christian Buildings and Its Cultural Connotations

A church building, often called a church, is used for religious activities, particularly worship services. The term in its architectural sense is most often used by Christians to refer to their religious buildings but also can be used by other religions. When viewed from plan we can view the longest part of a cross, which is represented by the aisle and the junction of the cross is located at the altar area. Towers or domes are often added with the intention of directing the eye of the viewer towards the heavens and inspiring church visitors. Modern church buildings have a variety of architectural styles and layouts: many buildings that were designed for other purposes have now been converted for church use; and, similarly, many original church buildings have been put to other uses.

The earliest identified Christian house church is the Dura-Europos church, founded between 233 and 256. During the 11th through 14th centuries, a wave of building of cathedrals and smaller parish churches occurred across western Europe. In addition to being a place of worship, the cathedral or parish church was used by the community in other ways. It could serve as a meeting place for guilds of a hall for banquets. Mystery plays were sometimes performed in cathedrals, and cathedrals might also be used for fairs. The church could be used as a place to thresh and store grain.

A common architecture for churches is the shape of a cross. There is often dome or other large vaulted space in the interior that represents and draws attention to the heavens. A circle, or an octagon or similar star shape are other common shapes for churches. The circle represents eternity and the other represents the church's bringing light to the world. A tall tower over the crossing or on the "west" is another common feature.

In western ecclesiastical architecture, a cathedral diagram is a floor plan showing the sections of walls and piers, giving an idea of the profiles of their columns and ribbing. Light double lines in perimeter walls indicate glazed windows. Dashed lines show the ribs of the vaulting overhead. By convention, ecclesiastical floor plans are shown map-fashion, with north to the top and the liturgical east end to the right. Many abbey churches have floor plans that are comparable to cathedrals, though sometimes with more emphasis on the sanctuary and choir spaces that are reserved for the religious community. Smaller churches are similarly planned, with simplifications. Cathedral floor plans are designed to provide for the liturgical rites of the church.

In England, people can only get married in a church, or in a special office that is licensed for marriages. Thus it can be seen that church is closely connected to people's daily life. The medieval Western Europe church architecture is the result of Christian culture influence. Each part of the building implies the religious spirit and shows the effect of the Christian culture. The appearance of gothic cathedrals perfectly interprets the deep cultural meaning of the Christianity. The fusion of religion and building is becoming better. The church building has got through perfect change in the middle ages[6].

The church architecture is not just the product of the architect or the individual thought, but a combination limited by a series of symbolic cultural symbol. It is the culture itself and the symbolic drive of Christian thought that create the architecture. Because the Christian culture and ideology have deeply fused together with people's daily lives, the architect can create the impressive culture buildings admired by later generations.

5. Conclusion

In such times of economic globalization, we have to know the nature of both cultures, which can help and perfect understandings with each other from all aspects. Religious—the embodiment of Chinese and western cultures formed in the axis period of human history and still have a great force to life today.

When we talk about religions, we will think of Christian, Buddhism, Islam and so on. In China, Buddhism has a long history and people prefer to Buddhism than other religions. But in western countries, people believe Lord mostly. Sometimes, those are same to each other; sometimes, those are different. Both Chinese religious customs and western religious customs are an essential part of the cultural heritage in the world. If we want to make the cultural heritage known from generation to generation, we should keep on improving every aspect of the religious customs.

Indeed, with the social development and global cultural integration, people of the whole world recognize that religious customs also undergoes certain subtle changes. Buddhism was 2000 years old in China. Comparing with Christian, Buddhism had looked so deeply into the human mind in China. Also in western countries, Christian is more popular.

Religion is closely related to the human life. Those who criticize religion should have an accurate understanding of what it is they are criticizing. The cultural of religious customs will be colorful and valuable.

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