

**COMPARISON OF TEACHINGS**  
*The Shack and the Bible*

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***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” (Creed, 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> cent.=

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

1<sup>st</sup> prominent Christian universalist)

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There is no mention of the Devil in the description of the Fall (134-137), of his present work, or future destiny

There is no Devil confirmed in his evil choice but he will repent and go from hell to heaven

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; )

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At the cross “mercy triumphs over justice because of the cross”; justice was not exercised (164-165); justice flows from love

Justice is “born of love and limited by love” (decree of 1878).

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 judgment” (Jam. 2:13)

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Jesus is a wonderful companion in a “circle of relationship” devoid of authority, power, prominence of anyone; “filling roles is the opposite of relationships” (167)

Jesus is progressively humanized

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).

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The whole Trinity became

UR progressively blurs the distinctions

The Father sent the Son (1 Jn.

incarnate and was crucified (99)	within the Trinity (creeds of 1878, 1898)	4:9-10, 14) to be the Savior; the Father “smote him,” “laid on him our iniquity,” “was pleased to bruise him” (Isa. 53:4-10)
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God is “reconciled to the whole world” even to those who do not believe (192)	The creeds of 1878 and 1899 never mention “faith” or believing	People “are saved by grace through faith”; “without faith it is impossible to please God” (Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 11:6; 3:12; Rom. 10:9-10)
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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)
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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.)
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“love burns away every	The fires of hell are corrective,	Hell is punishment and torment
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vestige of corruption” (227)	disciplinary, purgatorial, not punitive	(Matt. 25:41; Luke 16:24-25, 28)
All people are children of God and loved equally by him (155-156).	All are God’s children and loved by him	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).
There will be a new revolution of “love and kindness” when all will confess Jesus is Lord (248).	In the end all in hell repent and go to heaven, and love finally triumphs over all	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).
Institutions are diabolical schemes; Jesus “never has, never will” create institutions including the church, government, marriage (178)	UR opposes evangelical churches and revival movements	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. 3; Tit. 1; 1 Cor. 11-14; 1 Pet.

5:1 ff.). Christians are to

assemble regularly (Heb.10:25).

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