

Six Common Categories to Test a Religion (Summary Edition)

Religion	1. Deity	2. Place	3. Rites	4. Priests	5. Calendar	6. Origin
Old Testament Judaism (Law of Moses)	God	Tabernacle or Temple	As specified by the Law of Moses	Levites	3 Feasts & Day of Atonement, Sabbath	God w/ Moses
Old Testament (Northern Tribes paganism)	Golden calves	Dan & Bethel	Jeroboam's instructions	Jeroboam's appointees	8 th day instead of 7 th of each feast month	Jeroboam
Modern Judaism	God (or not); many Jews today are atheistic or agnostic	Synagogue	Tradition, some from Maccabean Revolt between Testaments	Rabbis (no Levitical worship is commonly practiced today)	Some practice on Saturday, others traditional holidays only	Jewish-Cultural tradition developed over time
New Testament Christianity	Godhead – God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit	“In spirit and in truth”; “where 2 or 3 gather...”	Christ's ordinances and Apostles' instruction	All immersed believers	Lord's Supper (Communion) each Sunday	Jesus Christ & His Apostles
Denominational varieties	Godhead – God the	Sanctuary (sometimes	Denominational mandates	Clergy System (vs.	Lord's Supper	Various men such as

	Father, Son, Holy Spirit (mostly)	by another name)	or tradition (or borrowed theology from them)	Laity) – “pastors”, “reverends”, etc.	(symbolic) monthly, quarterly, or annually or never	Luther, Calvin, Wesley, someone, etc.
Catholicism	Godhead – God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit	Sanctuary	Catechism, Popes, Councils, Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, etc.	Clergy system (vs. Laity) – “priests”, “bishops”, etc.	Eucharist served daily (not mandated, however)	Rose to power in 4 th century Italy under influence by Constantine
Mormonism	Mormon version of God (created being of an infinite regression of man-gods)	Meeting House and Temples	Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, etc.	“Quorum of the Twelve Apostles”	Sacrament of bread and water served by the “Aaronic or Melchizedeki an Priesthood”	Joseph Smith
Islam	Allah and his prophet, Muhammad	Mosque	Koran	Imams (not officially referred to as a priesthood)	“Salat” – daily five prayers and special Friday prayer	Mohammed

By Joshua Stucki, referencing *The Eternal Struggle* by George L. Faull, Rel. D.