

Religious Syncretism of THEIRS



Syncretism

- **Syncretism-** the combining of different beliefs
 - ✦ Sikhism = blend of Hindu & Muslim ideas
 - ✦ Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism blended in China

Religious syncretism

The fusion of diverse religious beliefs and practices. Instances of religious syncretism-as, for example, Gnosticism (a religious dualistic system that incorporated elements from the Oriental mystery religions), Judaism, Christianity, and Greek religious philosophical concepts-were particularly prevalent during the Hellenistic period (c. 300 BC-c. AD 300). The fusion of cultures that was effected by the conquest of Alexander the Great (4th century BC), his successors, and the Roman Empire tended to bring together a variety of religious and philosophical views that resulted in a strong tendency toward religious syncretism. Orthodox Christianity, although influenced by other religions, generally looked negatively upon these syncretistic movements.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/religious+syncretism>

Question: "What is religious syncretism?"

Answer: *Syncretism*, as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, is "the reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief." This is most evident in the areas of philosophy and religion, and usually results in a new teaching or belief system. Obviously, this cannot be reconciled to biblical Christianity.