

Today's Lesson  
*A Matter of Karma*  
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*A Matter of Karma*

*Karma... choice or destiny?*

*A Matter of Karma*

The idea of karma was introduced through Hinduism and later spread to Buddhism and many of the other eastern world religions.

In the eastern religions it is defined as an action, seen as bringing upon oneself inevitable results, good or bad, either in this life or in a reincarnation.

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As a spiritual law it shows up as a cosmic principle according to which each person is rewarded or punished in one incarnation according to that person's deeds in the previous incarnation.

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It is known by many names: fate; destiny; predestination, predetermination, one's lot in life.

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The difficulty in arriving at a definition for karma arises because of the diversity of views among the various schools of Hinduism that co-exist and thrive; some schools, for example, consider karma and rebirth linked and simultaneously essential, while some consider karma essential but not rebirth.

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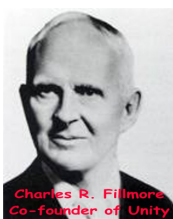
Buddhism and Jainism have their karma precepts. Karma thus has not one, rather multiple definitions and different meanings. It is a concept whose meaning, importance and scope varies between Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and other traditions that originated in India, and various schools in each of these traditions

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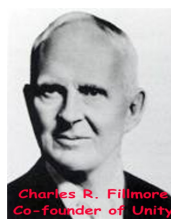
Among the religious scholars there is an on-going debate regarding whether karma is a theory, a model, a paradigm, a metaphor, or a metaphysical stance.

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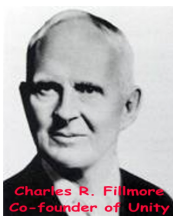
Fillmore had this to say on the matter of karma:  
*The whole ethical consequence of one's acts considered as fixing one's lot in the future existence* (Webster).

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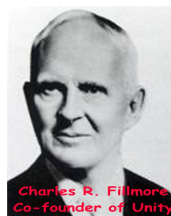
*The accumulated effects of the sins of past lives; the burden that those who believe in karma expect to carry for ages, or until they work out of it.*

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*They are weary treadmill travelers from birth to death, and from death to birth. There is no such hopeless note in the teachings of Jesus. He came that we may have life and have it abundantly.*

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*He came to bring a full consciousness of abundant life, complete forgiveness, redemption from all sin, and victory over death...and from all bondage to karma.*

### ***A Matter of Karma***

For many people in the world, karma is considered one of the natural laws of the mind, just as gravity is a law of matter. Just as God created gravity to bring order to the physical world, He created karma as a divine system of justice that is self-governing and infinitely fair. It automatically creates the appropriate future experience in response to the current action.

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This understanding of karma fit well into the concept of causality that can be traced through Hebrew, Babylonian, Greek and European cultures with their understanding of the law of cause and effect.

It was this understanding of karma as a reward and punishment that caused the disciples to question Jesus about the blind man.

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*His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*  
*"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."*

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Many people believe that Jesus did teach about the activity of karma as a form of reward and punishment:

*"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure-- pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."* (Luke 6:37-38).

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However, I don't think he did. Because it does not fit the paradigm of his teachings.

A God of love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness would not set up a testing system that would allow us to be kept in bondage to the law of causation without having a way out.

The way out for us is grace. As I see it, grace is the new paradigm in understanding the activity of karma.

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The law of causation simply states that there is an equal and opposite reaction to objects that are in a relationship with each other. (Do onto others as you would have them do onto you.)

Quantum Physics simply states that there are too many variables in the relationship of objects to know if they will respond in an equal and opposite exchange of energy.

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There will always be a response to energy that is used. However, the consequences of any action or reaction will always be based on some form of uncertainty.

(Your faith has made you whole, go and sin no more. Your sins have been forgiven go and sin no more. God desires mercy not sacrifice.)

Grace is the that veritable component in what we call karma that keeps us from reaping an equal and opposite consequence.

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**KARMA**

HOW PEOPLE TREAT  
YOU IS THEIR KARMA.  
HOW YOU REACT IS  
YOUR KARMA.

WAYNE DYER

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