

UNIVERSALISTS AND UNITARIANS

In 1859 the Universalist journal *New Covenant* of Chicago published the following piece on how to distinguish the two faith systems, as they appeared in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century:

“We are frequently asked, ‘What is the difference between Unitarianism and Universalism?’ There is but little, if any, difference in the theology of these two denominations of Christians, no greater difference, perhaps than that which exist between different individuals connected with these different communions upon points of doctrine of minor importance. Upon all the essential doctrines of the Gospel, there is perfect harmony of opinion.

“The main difference, we apprehend, between theologians connected with these two churches, has been in the style of preaching, rather than in the doctrines advocated. With the Universalist theologian, the more prominent sentiment perhaps has been God and his perfections, while the Unitarian has dwelt more at length upon *Man* and the dignity of his nature; so that some one describes the difference between the Unitarian and Universalist as follows: The Universalist believes that God is too good to damn eternally his own children; while the Unitarian believes that man is too good to be damned eternally. Neither church believes in the endless punishment of mankind, but in the final restoration of all souls to holiness, so that ultimately there will be moral harmony in God’s Universe.”

Ref: *The Universalist Herald*, August 26, 1859.

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