



# BASIC CHRISTIANITY

**1) Introduction:** For Christians, and those seeking to find life's answers, it is absolutely essential to know what we believe and why. To be sure our system of thinking is accurate, we must base it on the Word of God rather than on habit, culture, what others do, what others have told us, family heritage or what they believe, or what seems right in our own eyes. God, who created all things and to whom all things will answer for how they live, what they have done or do, and who will determine where you will be when death comes is real. If we are to ever discover the purpose for our life we must start with the Creator of Life.

- Truth: that is our need.
  - Why am I here?
  - What is expected of me?
  - Where will I be when I die?
- Why is it important to understand scriptural truth ([1 Peter 3:15](#))?
- What are some other reasons everyone should know how to explain their beliefs?

**2) Absolute Truths:** Let's consider a list of absolute truths that should be a foundational part of your belief system.

## a) The Bible – a Revealing of God – His Purpose for our creation – His Design and Will for our life

- The Bible is a record of God revealing Himself. It explains His intervention in history and nature, why He Created you and me, what His Love for us means, how we fell into Sin and lost our way and His arrival in this world as the God-man, Jesus Christ.
  - What is the inspiration of the Bible ([2 Tim. 3:16](#))?
  - Do you believe the Bible is reliable? Why or why not? Have you ever asked God to help you see and understand where to find "Truth"?

The Word of the living God is our instruction book for life and the final authority for what we believe. The things God has revealed to us are those things which in the end will be the final judge on our lives.

## b) The Godhead – [Father – Son – Holy Spirit] – One God in three persons revealed

- God consists of three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—but is one in essence. All three members of this Godhead (which is known as the "Trinity") have the same character traits but different functions. While we find it hard to understand this concept it also shows us how limited we are to be the answer to all questions. We are not our own, we are created beings designed for, and in, His image.

Describe how you see all three members of the Trinity in each passage below. (Refer to the surrounding text if necessary.)

John 14:16-17

Matthew 3:16-17

The following is a brief overview of the Godhead's different roles:

- Our heavenly Father is the Creator and is absolute power over everything (Rom. 8:28).
- God the Son is Jesus Christ, who took on human flesh and came to earth to die for the sins of mankind (John 14:9).



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Currently, these two members of the Trinity are in heaven (Eph. 1:20).

- God the Holy Spirit dwells within each believer from the moment of salvation. He enables us to fellowship with God, transforms the life of the believer, and produces good fruit – obedient attitudes and actions shown through our lives (Gal. 5:22-23).

It was through the Son Jesus Christ that God created all things, both the seen and unseen, the worlds, the universe and they are kept in existence by His Power. (Col 1:13-18)

### 3) Satan

The Bible teaches that Satan is real. The Devil was once an angel who rebelled against God the Creator. Satan works through rebellion and Sin, which instigates pain, sorrow, and spiritual death. He tries to lure people into his counterfeit kingdom by tempting them to do what feels good rather than what is right. While it may seem that Sinful things bring pleasure in the end they destroy – your life both physical and spiritual– your mind becomes darkened in thoughts and feelings– your family and friends become distant – your hope and happiness – life becomes an endurance test rather than a special gift.

- What are two reasons why Christian believers don't need to fear Satan? **The reverse reason why those who don't believe and follow Christ would also be very real.**
  - 1 John 4:4 – **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**
  - Revelation 20:10 – **Revelation 21:8**

### 4) Man

God created man in His image in order to love and fellowship with us. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, our relationship with the Creator changed. The protection and relationship was destroyed and the covering of God's light and Truth were lost. This trait has been passed down throughout the ages to all humans and every one has failed in some way falling into Sin.

- Is anyone not guilty of sin (Rom. 6:23)? Sin is rebellion against the authority of God over our lives.
- Why can't a person just be good enough to make up for his or her sin (Is. 64:6)?

### 5) Salvation

The simplest definition of salvation is *the gift of God's grace, whereby He provides forgiveness for our sins*. Throughout the Old Testament, God-fearing people sacrificed animals to atone for their sins. This practice foreshadowed Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (1 Peter 2:24).

- Why is it impossible for someone to reject Jesus and still go to heaven (1 John 2:23)?
- How is a person saved (Eph. 2:8-9)?
- What is Repentance? (Luke 13:3 / Acts 2:38)
- Why is Obedience important? (Matthew 7:14-23) / (John 14:24)
- What do we do if we Sin? (1 John 1:7-10)
- Why should believers do good works (Eph. 2:10)? (James 2:24)



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## 6) The Church

The church is the whole body of Christ—believers from every part of the globe. It has nothing to do with being part of a denomination. If you have trusted Jesus as your personal Savior, you are in the body of Christ. Obedience to the teachings of the Bible are your guide not other people. God is the final authority.

- Read Romans 12:3-16. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal one or two things He would have you do.
- What are three things the church should be doing, according to Matthew 28:19-20?
- How do you help the church – which is the body of Christ “make disciples of all the nations”?

In the church the practice of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, also known as Communion, demonstrate our Faith in the death burial and resurrection of Christ and His body that was the Sacrifice in our place for Sin.

- What does baptism represent (Rom. 6:4)?

Through Communion, we celebrate the forgiveness Christ gave us, His resurrection, and His future return.

- What did Christ say is the purpose of Communion (Luke 22:19-20)?

### c. Closing:

- Every one of these issues is a vital part of the Christian’s belief system, and they are all found in one place—the **Word of God**.