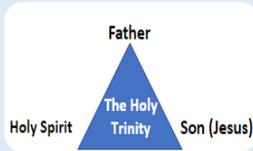


1: Key beliefs

Christianity is a **monotheistic** religion – they believe in ONE God. The **Holy Trinity** is a Christian belief that there is one God in three persons.



Christians believe God is:

- Omnipotent (all powerful)- *“Let there be light”*
- Omniscient (all knowing) - *“God is all knowing”*
- Omnipresent (everywhere)
- Benevolent (loving) - *“God is love”*
- Transcendent (beyond understanding)
- Immanent (personal)
- Eternal (no beginning and no end)

2: The Holy Trinity

The Trinity is a Christian belief that there is one God in three persons. The three persons are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Creed is revealed in the Bible and taught through the Church. All three persons of the Holy Trinity were present at Jesus’ baptism. **The Creed (prayer of belief)** is an important statement of belief about the Trinity. The Trinity is important to Christians because God the Father is the omnipotent creator, God the Son (Jesus) is God incarnate revealing God’s omnibenevolence, grace and forgiveness & the Holy Spirit is God present in the world revealing God is omnipresent and immanent.

Evidence for the Holy Trinity (SoWAs)

- God the Father**- The Lords’ prayer, Genesis 1, The Creed
- God the Son**- “In the beginning was The Word” Jn1:1, The Creed, New Testament, Old Testament prophecies.
- God the Holy Spirit**- Jesus’ baptism, Pentecost, religious experiences

3. The Incarnation

The word incarnation means ‘becoming flesh’. It is used by Christians to explain how God took human form through Jesus and lived and died in the world. Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God. He is God in human form, or God ‘incarnate’. “The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”

Jesus gave humanity an example to follow through his example and teachings. He taught agape (selfless Christian love). -Even though Jesus is God in human form, he valued everyone equally: “For you are all one in Christ”. -God sacrificed himself on the cross to take away the sins of human beings: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son” - Jesus is both immanent and personal allowing humanity to have relationship with God.

4. The Passion

The Passion is the suffering and death of Jesus. He was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, and his death was to be by crucifixion. Even though Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God, it does not mean that he was somehow spared the pain and horror of his crucifixion. The Passion is important to Christians as this was an act of God’s love, God sacrificed his only Son to save humanity from sin. Christians believe this act shows God’s **grace (act of mercy and love to all even those who are not deserving)** and benevolence. There are several ways in which the crucifixion affects Christians today:

- It gives them confidence that if they accept Jesus’ sacrifice, sin can no longer destroy their loves because God forgives those who faithfully ask for forgiveness
- They believe that suffering is a part of life, just as it was a part of Jesus’ life and that, having experienced it, God understands what the sufferer is going through.

5: The Routes to Salvation

Salvation means ‘to be saved from sin and consequences. ‘ Sin has separated humans from God, and salvation enables humans to get close to God again. *“For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* Christians believe that Jesus’ death makes up for the original sin committed by Adam & Eve and so can bring people back to God.– **atonement (at one with God)** Jesus knew his death was necessary to restore the relationship between God and the believers and make the opportunity for salvation available to all people. This was God’s plan, an act of grace.

Other Christians believe salvation can be achieved through good works by caring for one another and loving your neighbour. Other believe salvation is for all humanity as it was an act of grace ,while some believe you must believe in Jesus as the Saviour -*‘I am the way, and the truth.’*

6. Creation

Christians all believe the Bible expresses ‘**Truth**’ that the world was created by the omnipotent God. Some Christians interpret Genesis **literally (fact, and the Words of God)** and some **non-literally (metaphorically, symbolically)**. Literalists believe the universe was created in six days whereas non-literalists believe creation happened over eons. Literalists dismiss scientific explanations of how the universe came to be where as non literalists believe when God said ‘*Let there be light*’ this was God causing the Big Bang as he is omnipotent and omniscient.

Science tells us that our universe is approx. 14bn years old, and our planet is approx. 4bn years old. An explosion (The Big Bang) led to the creation of all space, time and matter. Humans have evolved over time, through a process of natural selection. This is called ‘evolution’.