

## Fundamental Concepts of Christianity

**Salvation** is the saving of your Spiritual life. Having salvation means you will go to heaven and have eternal life and live with God forever. Salvation is only obtained through Jesus. You need to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior to go to heaven. (All of chapter three in the Gospel of John states the fact that whoever believes in Jesus goes to heaven.)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” *John 3:16*

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life and he who does not believe in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” *John 3:36*

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” *John 14:6*

Jesus says, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”  
*John 6:47*

[Jesus] “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.” *John 10:9*

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. *1 John 2:23*

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. *1 John 5:11-13*

Faith in Jesus is all you need to have your soul live eternally with God - the ultimate save.

But what does it say, “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.” (That is, the word of faith that we preach): That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scriptures says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” *Romans 10: 8-13*

As you can see, Salvation is all about Jesus.

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.  
*Acts 2:21*

Jesus' name means “LORD is Salvation.”

**Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah.** The Samaritan woman at the well meets the Messiah.

The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When

He comes, He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”  
*John 4:25-26*

Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”  
*Matthew 16:16*

**Jesus is God.** Jesus fulfilled all the requirements (more than 300 conditions) of the Messiah spoken about in the Bible for thousands of years prior to His first coming.

Christ came, who is over all the eternally blessed God. Amen. *Romans 9:5*

He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.  
*Revelation 19:13* (The Word is one of the title names of Jesus)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. *John 1:13*

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

For in Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. *Colossians 2:9*

Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed.  
*Titus 2:13-14*

God was manifested in the flesh,  
Justified in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels,  
Preached among the Gentiles,  
Believed on in the world,  
Received up in glory. *1 Timothy 3:16*

**The Trinity** is really one God. Three Persons make up one God.

$$\begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ God the Father} \\ + \\ 1 \text{ God the Son} \\ + \\ \underline{1 \text{ God the Holy Spirit}} \\ = 1 \text{ God} \\ 1+1+1=1 \\ 3=1 \end{array}$$

Each Person is a complete separate divine Being. All Three Persons are equal in Their importance and in Their state of Divineness and together They make up one God.

This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these Three are one. *1 John 5:6-7* (The Word is Jesus)

The concept of the Trinity is beyond human understanding. It is given to us by the revelation of God.

*The water example* - Three separate forms of water, but they are all water.

Water exists in liquid form.

Water exists in ice (solid) form.

Water exists in vapor (gas) form.

Three separate forms of God, but together they make up one God.

God the Father

God the Son - Jesus

God the Holy Spirit - the Spirit form of God

God took the form of a Man (Jesus) to teach us about Himself and to provide the Way for the redemption of mankind - how we can be forgiven for our sins.

**Redemption** - the human condition of sin. We are all sinners and we continue to sin throughout our lives.

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks, that they are all under sin. As it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one." *Romans 3:9-10*

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. *Romans 3:23-24*

Not one person is good enough to be in heaven, but God has given us the free gift of eternal life through His grace. He gives us something we don't deserve, but gives it to us anyway because of His infinite love for us.

A man is justified by faith apart from deeds of the law. *Romans 3:28*

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

The entire Bible is about Jesus. He is on every page. Jesus is God's plan for the redemption of man.

*Redemption* – To pay the required price to secure the release of a convicted criminal (us).

*Redeemer* – The person making the payment (Jesus).

We are all sinners. Our sins have to be paid for in full in order for us to go to heaven. Jesus paid for our sins; in fact He died for our sins. Heaven is such a beautiful and wonderful place,

"But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." *1 Corinthians 2:9*

We can not just show up in heaven without our sins being paid for. Jesus paid for our sins - all of our sins – past, present and future sins. Jesus died for all of mankind's sin. Jesus' payment was in fact His death on the Cross (the ultimate payment). We can not pay for our sins ourselves because we are innately sinful and continue to sin up to the moment we die. Our sins must be paid for. Jesus did this for us so that we can have peace (reconciliation) with God the Father.

And she will bring forth a Son and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. *Matthew 1:21*

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. *Ephesians 1:7*

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many [believers] for the remission [forgiveness] of sins." *Matthew 26:27-28*

God views all our sins as a series of crimes that have to be paid for before the believer goes to Heaven. Jesus took the believer's punishment on the cross and paid for all the believer's sins. The nonbeliever is punished for all of his sins (crimes) in Hell and the Lake of Fire for eternity.

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our sins are forgiven and God the Father no longer sees our sins. They are covered by the blood of Jesus. We are made white and pure by Jesus' death on the cross.

"Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." *Hebrews 10:17*

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" *John 1:29*

But this Man [Jesus], after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. *Hebrews 10:12*

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. *1 Peter 3:18*

**The Crucifixion** - Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. His last words on the cross were, "tetelestai." This is Greek for "paid in full." To pay the debt of man's sin in full - completely. In the English translation, Jesus says, "It is finished! (tetelestai)" - a debt that is finished. Mankind's debt (sins) are finally paid in full.

Tetelestai - from teleo in Greek: to end, i.e. complete, execute, conclude, discharge (a debt), accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, pay. Paid in full. [Strong's Concordance]

An example that would help explain this is during Jesus' time, when a man was released from prison after serving his punishment for his crimes, he was given a release paper (his debt to society form) and it was stamped "tetelestai" (paid in full). The man had paid in full for his crimes. His prison sentence was served. Jesus paid our debt for all our sins in full.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom [payment] for many. *Mark 10:45*

Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sin of the world. The Crucifixion paid for all of mankind's sins. However, to go to heaven, you must accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior and then, and only then are your sins forgiven and you become a child of God. This is the new covenant of the New Testament.

Jesus said, "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." *Matthew 26:28*

Remission of sins means to release from the penalty of sins or simply the forgiveness of sins.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. *John 1:12*

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. *Galatians 3:26*

You + Jesus = Forgiveness of Sins = Heaven

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your sins are forgiven and you become a child of God. You go to heaven.

If you don't accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your sins are not forgiven and you are a condemned sinner that receives punishment on Judgment Day. You go to hell and afterwards, to Gehenna, the lake of fire, for eternity.

God wants you to go to heaven, but He will not force you. God gave you the gift of free will to choose Jesus or not to choose Jesus. Remember, John 14:6 in which Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." It is your choice where your soul lives eternally - either with God or without God, and believe me you want to be with God.

**The Resurrection** - Jesus died and was raised from the dead. His guarantee to us that this will also happen to believers.

Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." *John 11:25*

When we die we are suddenly absent from the body and present with the Lord. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. *2 Corinthians 5:8*

The Resurrection demonstrates Jesus' Deity (Jesus is God) and proves that Jesus is God because only God Himself can raise Himself from the dead. When the disciple Thomas saw Jesus in His resurrected state Thomas said in John 20:28, "My Lord and my God."

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." *John 10:17-18*

Jesus said that only He has the power to lay His life down (die) and then to take it up again (resurrect Himself from the dead).

In Matthew, Jesus said He would raise Himself in three days.

Jesus answered and said unto them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." *John 2:19*

Jesus appeared to His disciples three days after His death in His resurrected body. Jesus' first appearance was in the upper room to ten of His disciples. Thomas was not there. Thomas did not believe that Jesus appeared to them. Eight days later Jesus appears again to His disciples - this time Thomas is there.

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." *John 20:29*

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. *John 20:31*

The Resurrection authenticates and validates who Jesus is and Christianity itself. Jesus ministered on earth for 40 more days after the Resurrection; then He ascended into heaven (the Ascension).

He also presented Himself alive [the Resurrection] after His suffering [the Crucifixion] by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. *Acts 1:3*

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight [the Ascension]. *Acts 1:9*

During the 40 days Jesus hand picked hundreds of witnesses to His resurrected physical state - which is recorded in history. (*1 Corinthians 15:3-8*)

He did this because He wanted to prove to people that Christianity is real and the only true belief system. No other religion has proof like this. No other religion has a man claim to be the Son of God and one of the forms of God Himself, then die and be raised from the dead with witnesses.

Jesus' miracles of resurrecting Jairus' daughter, the widow of Nain's son and Lazarus who had been dead for four days really got people's attention. Then when Jesus raised Himself from the dead after three days, it confirmed His Deity and Christianity itself.

The Resurrection took a group of scared frightened disciples just after the Crucifixion and turned them into a powerful motivated pumped up nucleus that initiated the church (believers in Christ).

The Resurrection proves that Jesus is who He says He is— the Son of God and the bodily form of God Himself.

***The New Birth***— the transformation of the believer.

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." *John 3:3*

Three transformations occur when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

(1) Instantaneously, you are given the free gift of eternal life. You are born into eternal life right then at that moment of commitment to Jesus. We are born first in the body then born second into eternal spiritual life - the second birth. We are born twice, die once, then we are resurrected and live eternally with God.

(2) We are immediately given a new clean spirit. Remember there is a trinity within ourselves - heart (spirit), body (muscles and brain), and soul.

(3) The Holy Spirit indwells us. The Third Person of God indwells (lives inside us) the believer immediately at the moment of acceptance of Jesus in our hearts, and He, the Holy Spirit never leaves us.

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

*John 14: 16-17*

### ***The existence of Good and Evil***

God allows evil and the devil to exist for the following reason:

If there is no evil, then humans have no choice regarding Jesus. God wants humans to have free will to choose Jesus (believers), or to not choose Jesus (nonbelievers). Nonbelievers refuse and reject Jesus Christ by following false religions, which all originate from Satan. God wants children, not robots.

No evil (sin) = No choice = No free will

Existence of Good + Evil = Choice = Free will

Earth is not Heaven, and is certainly not Hell. Evil and sin is totally removed with the New Heavens and New Earth at the completion of Jesus' Millennial Kingdom Reign.

***Faith***— belief in Jesus. Faith has many dimensions; the most important is love.

Jesus wants you to love Him, to have a personal relationship with Him, and to want Him and need Him in your life. For example, all a father really wants from his son or daughter is for his child to love him. He doesn't care if they are sinners. All Jesus wants is for you to love Him, to accept Him in your heart, to give your heart to Him, and to give your life over to Him.

Put Jesus in charge of your life. Commit your heart to Jesus. Commit yourself to Jesus today and you will live with Him in heaven forever.

This commitment can be done in the privacy of your own will. You can do it right now today. If you are ready and sincere, just say this prayer:

“I accept You Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I want You in my life. I need You in my life. I believe You are the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah. I believe You paid and died for my sins. I believe You were raised from the dead. I believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I'm sorry I am a sinner. I turn to You Jesus with all my heart. Please forgive all my sins. I believe You are my Savior and I will live in heaven with you forever. All this I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. Thank You Jesus. I love You Jesus. Amen.”