
The Apostles Creed

Below is the Apostles Creed. Christians have been saying it for almost 2000 years! It is the basics of what Christians believe.

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Below is the Lord's Prayer. When they asked him how to pray, this is what Jesus responded with (*Matthew 6:9-13*):

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever and ever. Amen.*

John 3:16

This is the most famous verse in the bible. It is a very good summary of the Christian religion.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

The Ten Commandments

Below are the 10 commandments of God's law. They inform Christians how they are to live, treat others, and respect God.

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbors.

Jesus sums up all of these commandments into two simple commands

(*Matthew 22:37-40*):

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Other Resources:

The best resource to learn about Christianity is the Bible; I recommend starting by reading the books of Matthew, John, and Ephesians. The full text of the Bible can be found online, via many free apps, or in the actual book itself. Luther's Small Catechism is another good resource; it's full text can also be found online. Additionally, find a church near you - most pastors would be very happy to talk to you.

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Jesus Loves You. He Died For You. He Wants You!

What is Christianity? Christianity is a religion based on the teachings of Jesus as found in the Bible. It's about living a life of faith for and with God because he gave his life for you and receiving from him the gifts he wants to give you (like eternal life).

Who are Christians? Christians not only believe that God exists but also that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die to forgive us and to rise from the dead to defeat death and give us eternal life. Inspired and changed by what Jesus did, Christians try to follow and live like him.

Why should you become a Christian? You should become a Christian because it's the truth; more than any other worldview, Christianity makes sense of our experience. On top of that, you need God. We've all done wrong and to be saved from justly being punished with death and hell, we need the forgiveness only Jesus can provide. In that, Christians find peace and hope because God loves us and welcomes us into eternal life.

How do you become a Christian? God is the only one who can bring you to believe in him and what he has done. So, spend time with him and let him work: pray to him, read his Word (the Bible), sing to him, attend a worship service, love and serve people, talk to other Christians about their faith, and get baptized.

What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word - it's inspired by him. God revealed things about himself to the authors of the Bible and they wrote it down so that the rest of us can learn about God and his plan to save us from our sins. The Bible is the only place where you can learn about being saved as other religions do not lead to heaven.

Is being a Christian hard? Being a Christian will be difficult. The way that God wants you to live is different from the way that we naturally live. Inherently, we're all selfish, but the Christian strives to put God first. This might mean you'll have to give up some things that God says aren't good, it'll mean giving up some of your time to serve God, and it'll result in you spending money and effort to help other people. However, life will also be better because you'll know the God who loves you and is with you; he fills our lives with peace and purpose!

What does the Christian life look like? The Christian life is about love. God loves you so that you can now love him and your neighbors. Thus, Christians try to live in humility, generosity, forgiveness, and love for God and all people. However, as humans, we still mess up and fail to always do these things; therefore, the Christian life is also one of repentance to God and trusting that he will forgive your shortcomings because Jesus Christ paid for them by his death.

Want to know more? These are all short, incomplete answers - and God always meant for Christianity to be personal. So if you'd like to know more, please reach out to me at pastor@stjohnberlin.org. I would love to find time to connect with you, hear your story, and share more about our Savior. God bless you!

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